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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

October 1, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
Department of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Secretary Hegseth,

Amidst the lapse in appropriations following U.S. Senate Democrats' opposition to the U.S. House of Representatives' clean continuing resolution, our military faces many potential obstacles. In particular, I have received concerns regarding servicemen and servicewomen who are nearing the end of Temporary Duty Assignments or Temporary Additional Duty (TDY/TAD) orders but will be sent back to their home units without completing their training, certifications, or deployments. While any TDY/TAD represents a brief disruption to a unit's readiness, ultimately, the investment in further training or deployment of personnel is a critical benefit to our servicemembers and the country's readiness posture.

As you know, just the costs associated with a servicemember's per diem while on TDY/TAD can range from the standard contiguous United States (CONUS) rate of \$178 per day to more than \$1000 per day for the outside the contiguous United States (OCONUS) rate. That does not take into account the substantial resources associated with the training provided. If this lapse in appropriations is in fact forcing significant numbers of servicemembers to prematurely leave their assignments before completing their training, certifications, or deployments, it is an irresponsible waste of taxpayer dollars and a disservice to our troops and overall readiness.

I ask that you please provide a briefing to me at your earliest possible convenience on the costs associated with termination of current TDY/TAD assignments resulting directly from the ongoing government shutdown, as well as the current and future impacts such action has on the readiness and development of our service men and women.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress