



Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

January 14, 2019

RE: Pay the Defenders of NYC and NY Harbor

Dear Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand,

On behalf of our membership, we urge you to take immediate action to pay uniformed members of the **United States Coast Guard**, the **United States Public Health Service**, and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** to keep employees critical to the defense and preparedness of New York City and New York Harbor working and paid regardless of the political battles being fought in Washington, DC.

We support immediate passage of S.21, with the addition of USPHS and NOAA.

Though continued funding for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Air Force is provisioned through the U.S. Department of Defense, members of the above three federal uniformed services critical to defending our city and port remain unpaid, and their families are left to suffer the consequences in an unforgivingly expensive metropolitan area. While we oppose the shutdown generally, it is especially abhorrent that our city's defenders have been forced to suffer.

New York City last year was named a "Coast Guard City," yet our Coasties are being asked to sacrifice greatly just to keep serving us. USPHS and NOAA are also suffering as they ensure our ability to prepare and respond to threats to our city and port.

New York's Senators must stand up for our defenders and pay them their due.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KRISTEN L. ROUSE', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Kristen L. Rouse
U.S. Army Veteran – OEF (Afghanistan) VII, X, and XII
President & Founding Director
NYC Veterans Alliance