



October 22, 2025

The Honorable Michael Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

We write to express our disappointment in this year's hyper-partisan amendment process for the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and urge you to return to a bipartisan approach during the upcoming conference negotiations.

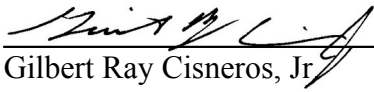
The NDAA amendment process should be a serious, thoughtful discussion about how to address the critical needs of our national security, ensure readiness against our adversaries, and, most importantly, provide for our servicemembers and their families. For over 60 years, Congress has consistently passed this bill on time, demonstrating a unified commitment to our nation's defense. The FY26 NDAA passed through the House Armed Services Committee in July with overwhelming bipartisan support. It is therefore deeply disappointing that for the third consecutive year under a Republican led House, a historically bipartisan process was derailed by political maneuvers aimed to target matters not related to national security.

Instead of focusing on a commonsense approach to national security, the floor process was dominated by poison pill culture war amendments unrelated to the needs of the Department of Defense (DoD) and our men and women in uniform, resulting in a bill that took healthcare away from military dependents and reduced base commander authorities. In an effort to work on critical issues, members of the New Democrat Coalition submitted meaningful amendments that would have addressed the use of the U.S. military for domestic law enforcement; the unilateral decisions that eliminated DoD inspectors general, senior military leader positions, and highly qualified military lawyers; and the chaos that the Secretary of Defense has turned the Pentagon into.

The NDAA has served as the foundation for our national security priorities. Congress has an obligation to provide timely legislation to meet those needs. Members from both sides of the aisle have taken our role to exercise oversight of the DoD seriously and ensure that we can properly meet our national security and national defense needs.

We respectfully urge you to prioritize the needs of our servicemembers and the security of our nation over partisan politics. We ask that you return to the negotiating table with a commitment to a bipartisan path forward and stand ready to work with you to thoughtfully address our national security needs and restore the integrity of the NDAA process.

Sincerely,



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



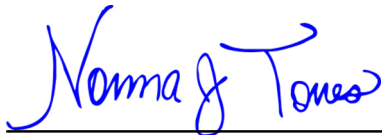
Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



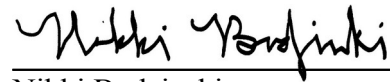
Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress




Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



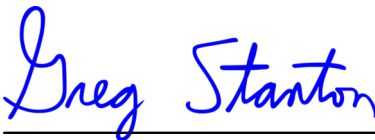
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress




Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



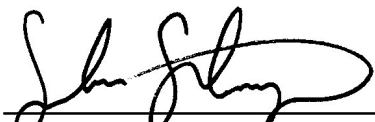
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



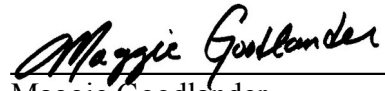
Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress




Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



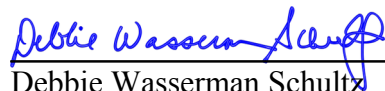
Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



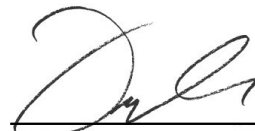
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Cc'd: Senator Roger F. Wicker, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee  
Senator Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee  
Representative Mike Rogers, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee  
Representative Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee