

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 22, 2015

The Honorable Ash Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Carter:

The recent murder of four Marines, a sailor, and the injuring of others in Chattanooga, Tennessee is further, irrefutable evidence that domestic terrorism targeting our stateside troops is real and ongoing. This attack unfolded just four months after the March 26, 2015 arrests of Hasan Rasheed Edmonds, a member of the Illinois National Guard, and his cousin Jonas Marcel Edmonds, for plotting to join ISIS and attack soldiers on U.S. bases. In December 2010, Antonio Martinez was arrested for planning to bomb a military recruiting center in Maryland. In June 2009, Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad was arrested for firing on soldiers in front of a United States military recruiting office in Little Rock, Arkansas. He killed Private William Long and wounded Private Quinton Ezeagwula.

These examples are beyond the notorious attack by Major Nidal Malik Hasan on November 5, 2009, when the U.S. Army psychiatrist opened fire at a military processing center at Fort Hood, Texas, killing 13 people and wounding 32 others. There is no reason to believe the risk will mitigate; to the contrary, all facts lead us to believe that the risk of more attacks on our troops is increasing.

We must not delay in confronting this real and imminent threat. Current Department of Defense regulations, in place since at least 1992, prohibit base commanders from allowing service members to carry personal firearms on military installations. You have the authority to change this directive, and we implore you to do so. Specifically, we ask that you allow the Commanding Officer at each of our military bases and reserve centers to authorize certain personnel to carry personal firearms as a means of enhanced force protection.

Though legislation has been introduced via an amendment to the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act, which makes clear that the Secretary of Defense would empower commanders to enact this policy, you have the discretion and authority to make this important change now.

Our men and women in uniform should have the fundamental right to defend themselves, and their families deserve the peace of mind that all reasonable steps are being taken to ensure that their loved one returns home safely at the end of the day. We believe that the need for you to act on this request is painfully self-evident, and urgent.

We appreciate and thank you for your leadership and your strong advocacy for those who defend and keep our nation free.

Sincerely,



Scott Rigell  
Member of Congress



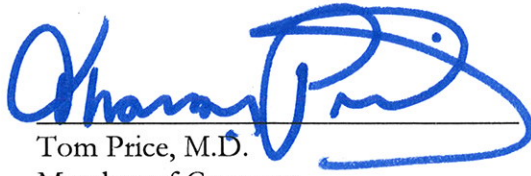
Pat Roberts  
United States Senator



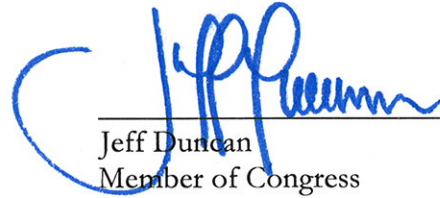
John Boozman  
United States Senator



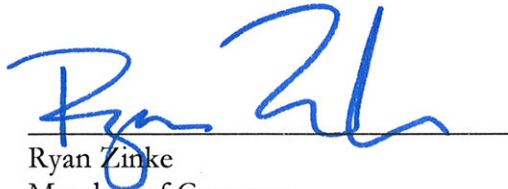
Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



Tom Price, M.D.  
Member of Congress



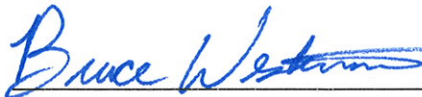
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke  
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Robert Hurt  
Member of Congress



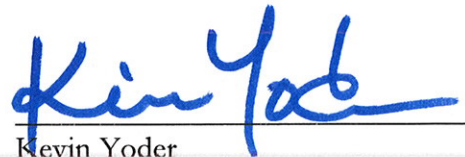
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



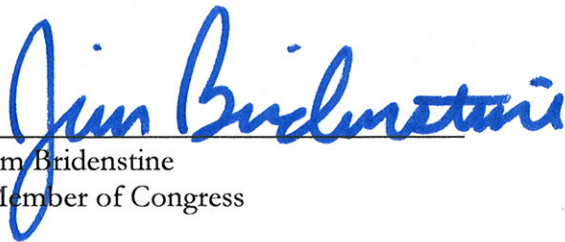
Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress



Rod Blum  
Member of Congress



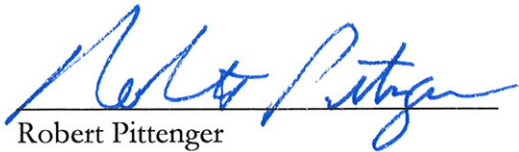
Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



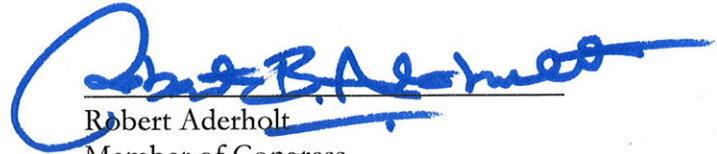
Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress



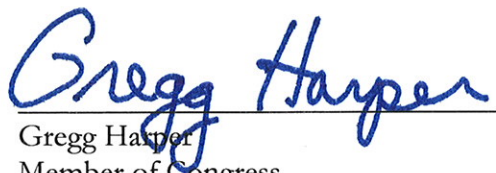
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson  
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt  
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Gregg Harper  
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Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress



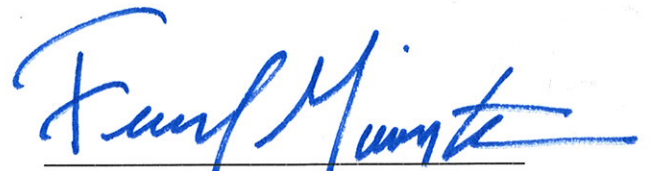
Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
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John Ratcliffe  
Member of Congress



Frank Guinta  
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David Brat  
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Steven Palazzo  
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Jeff Miller  
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Phil Roe, M.D.  
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Ken Buck

Ken Buck  
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Ralph Abraham  
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Jackie Walorski

Jackie Walorski  
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David Rouzer

David Rouzer  
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Glenn Grothman

Glenn Grothman  
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Paul Gosar

Paul Gosar  
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Ted Yoho

Ted Yoho  
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Dan Benishek

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Mark Meadows

Mark Meadows  
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Bill Flores

Bill Flores  
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Kevin Cramer

Kevin Cramer  
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Daniel Webster

Daniel Webster  
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Morgan Griffith

Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp

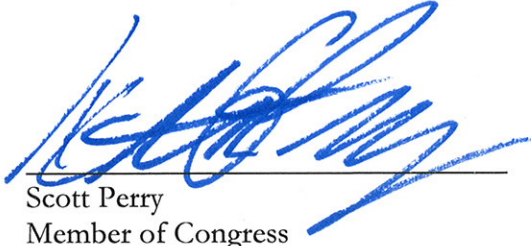
Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress



Jason Smith  
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



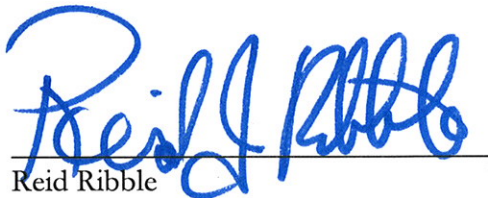
French Hill  
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



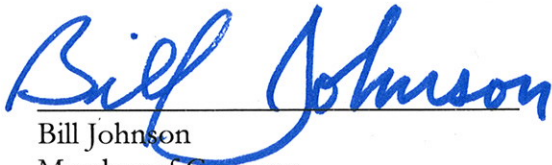
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



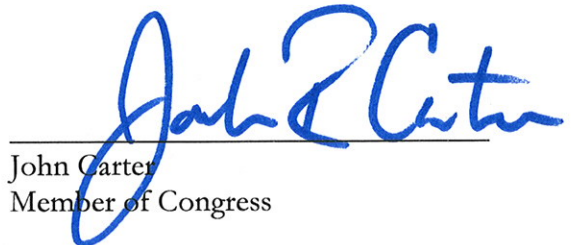
Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



Raul Labrador  
Member of Congress



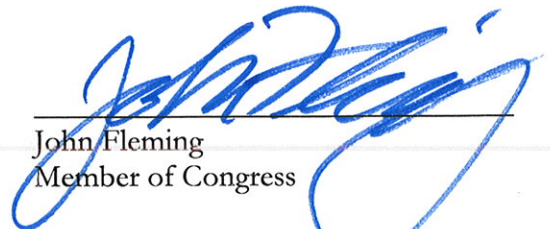
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



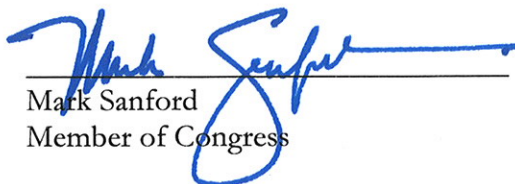
John Carter  
Member of Congress



Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



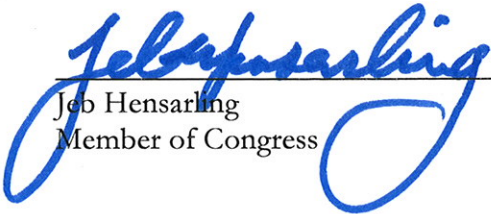
John Fleming  
Member of Congress




Mark Sanford  
Member of Congress





Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress

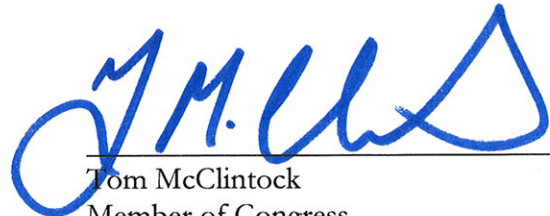
  
Job Hensarling  
Member of Congress


  
Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

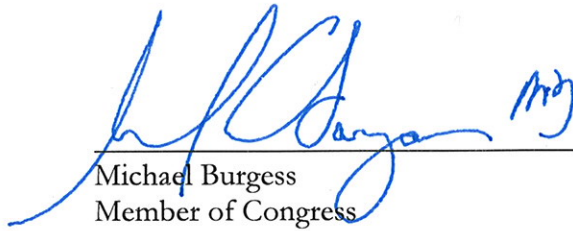
  
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress


  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

  
Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress

  
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress

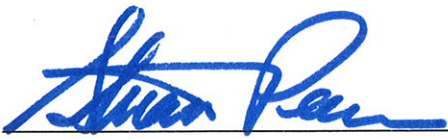
  
Walter Jones  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Burgess  
Member of Congress

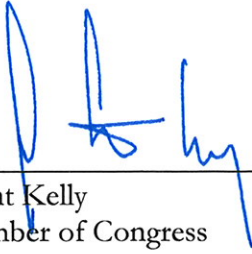
  
Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

  
Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

  
K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress

  
Rob Wittman  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress