

**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,

Ken Buck

Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski

Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar MS AZ OK

Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress

Ted Yoho

Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek

Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows

Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress

Bill Flores

Bill Flores  
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer

Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster

Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress

Morgan Griffith

Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp

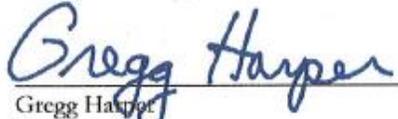
Tim Huelskamp  
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Curt Clawson  
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Gregg Harper  
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John Ratcliffe  
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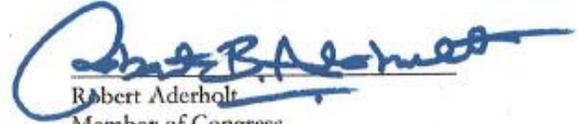
David Brat  
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Jeff Miller  
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Barbara Comstock  
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Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Frank Guinta  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Phil Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress

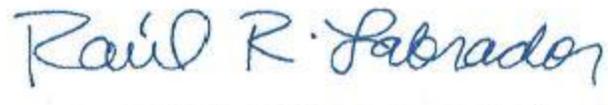
  
Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

  
French Hill  
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Mo Brooks  
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K. Michael Conaway  
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Steve Pearce  
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Rob Wittman  
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*Lou Barletta*

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Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress

*Trent Kelly*

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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress