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CHAIR - TASK FORCE ON CLEAN ENERGY,
ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC LANDS AND WATER

PORTS CAUCUS

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

December 15, 2017

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2066 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security
176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security
H2-117 Ford House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304
US Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304
US Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On November 28, 2017, more than 200 women from the U.S. national security community bravely signed an open [letter](#) regarding sexual harassment and assault in the national security workforce. We write with profound concern about the sexual misconduct in federal agencies like the Department of Defense, Department of State and Department of Homeland Security, as well as civilian contractors and entities such as the National Security Council. We urge the House Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to immediately convene joint hearings on sexual misconduct in

agencies and/or departments under their respective jurisdictions “to consider a comprehensive set of actions to reduce sexual harassment and abuse” within these agencies and departments.

As noted by the signers of the letter, the agencies and institutions where they serve or served all have sexual harassment policies in place. Nevertheless, women from across the national security community—including service members, former and current diplomats, civil servants and development workers—are subject to widespread sexual misconduct in the workplace. This is exacerbated by gender imbalances in senior leadership positions. Clearly, the policies and leadership fell short.

Women in the national security community are calling for strong reforms—they put their careers and reputations at risk to shine a light on the need for reform within national security circles. We owe it to these courageous women to hold hearings and examine this issue that impacts so many in the federal workforce and potentially threatens the efficacy of U.S. national security policy. Alternatively, if Congress does nothing, we send a dangerous message that we are indifferent to the inexcusable challenges women in the national security workforce endure.

The open letter closes with 223 women asking, “How will you protect, empower, and defend the women who serve our nation?” We, the undersigned Members of Congress, are eager to answer their call and therefore urge you to hold joint hearings to examine the issues raised and identify the best policies to foster positive workplace cultures within the departments and agencies that are the backbone of our nation’s security.

Sincerely,



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Committee on Homeland Security



Bennie G. Thompson
Committee on Homeland Security



John Katko
Committee on Homeland Security



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Committee on Homeland Security



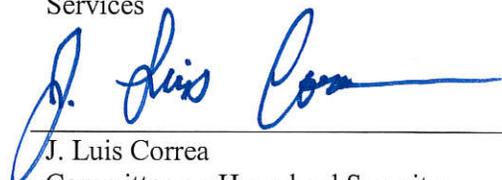
Sheila Jackson Lee
Committee on Homeland Security



Jim Langevin
Committees on Homeland Security and Armed Services



Donald M. Payne Jr.
Committee on Homeland Security



J. Luis Correa
Committee on Homeland Security

Val B. Demings

Val Butler Demings
Committee on Homeland Security

André Carson

André Carson
Intelligence Committee

Jackie Speier

Jackie Speier
Committees on Intelligence and Armed Services

Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell
Intelligence Committee

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Committee on Armed Services

Marc Veasey

Marc Veasey
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Ruben Gallego
Committee on Armed Services

Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton
Committee on Armed Services

Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa
Committee on Armed Services

Jacklyn Rosen

Jacklyn Rosen
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Salud O. Carbajal

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Anthony Brown

Anthony Brown
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Rohit Khanna

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Committee on Armed Services

Jimmy Panetta

Jimmy Panetta
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Gerald E. Connolly

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David N. Cicilline
Committee on Foreign Affairs

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel
Committee on Foreign Affairs

Dina Titus

Dina Titus
Committee on Foreign Affairs

Norma J. Torres

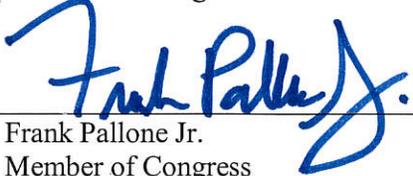
Norma J. Torres
Committee on Foreign Affairs



Ted W. Lieu
Committee on Foreign Affairs



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress



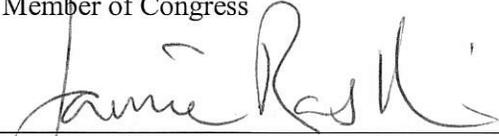
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Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



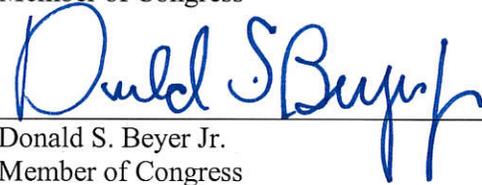
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



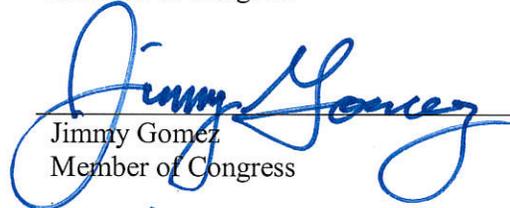
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Member of Congress



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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Jimmy Gomez
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Earl Blumenauer
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