

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Kevin McAleenan
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Acting Secretaries McAleenan and Esper:

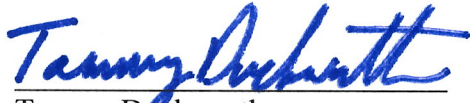
We write in strong opposition to the proposed termination of the parole in place (PIP) program that protects military families from removal. Public reports indicate that the Trump administration may end PIP in the next few weeks, leaving immediate relatives of Veterans and active duty servicemembers vulnerable to deportation while their loved one is serving overseas for our Nation. Ending this important program is cruel, inhumane and will result in separating military families.

For more than a decade, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has used its discretionary legal authority to grant parole to minimize family separation and to promote readiness for servicemembers. Through this program, servicemembers are able to fight for the United States overseas and not worry that their spouse, children, or parents will be deported while they are away. Terminating PIP would not only cause personal hardship to our servicemen and women, but negatively impact them in combat. Military members deserve peace of mind while serving abroad.

Withdrawing protections from military families is a direct threat to our military readiness and our national security. At a time when our Armed Forces are fighting dangerous wars overseas, we must enact policies that support our men and women in combat, rather than repeal policies that cause unnecessary harm. The Trump administration should provide favorable immigration solutions for military families, not break them up.

The limited resources available for immigration removal must be prioritized for individuals with violent criminal convictions, public safety risks and threats to our national security. They should not be used to deport the families of our Armed Services members protecting our national security. Through PIP, the U.S. government recognizes the important sacrifices made by servicemembers, Veterans, enlistees and their families. Ending the program flies in the face of American values and signals that we do not value the contributions of military families. We urge you to honor our troops and immediately reverse any plan to rescind PIP and protect their families from unnecessary deportation.

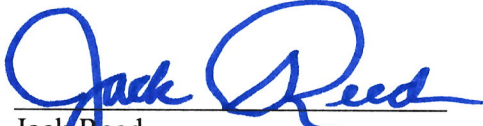
Sincerely,



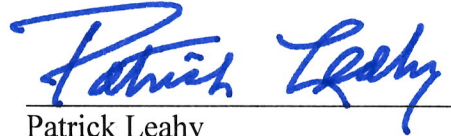
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



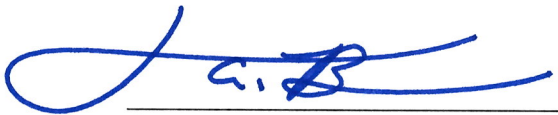
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



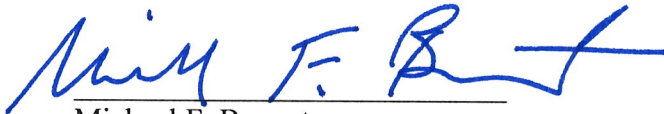
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



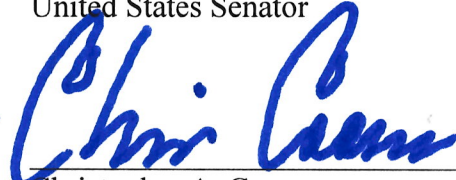
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



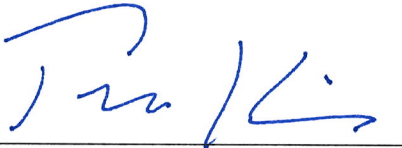
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



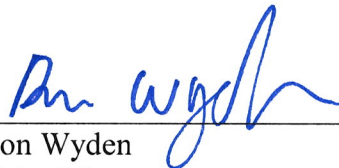
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



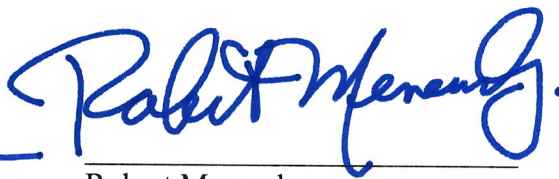
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



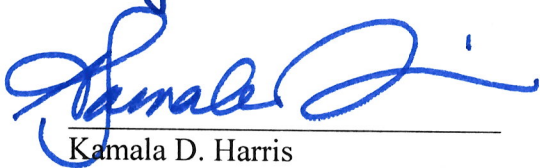
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



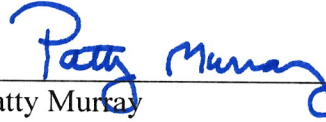
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



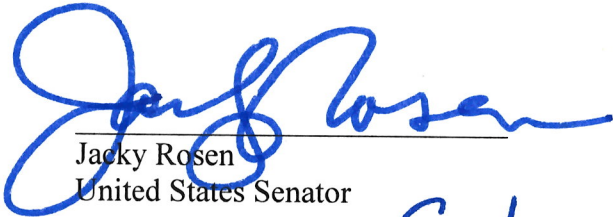
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



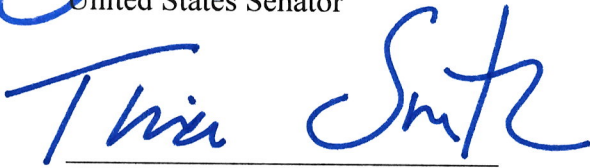
Patty Murray
United States Senator



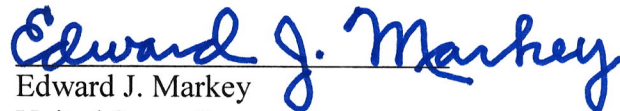
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator