

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith,

As you continue conference negotiations for the Fiscal Year 2026 *National Defense Authorization Act*, we strongly urge you to retain provisions in the final text that are critical to maintaining the security, cooperation, and deterrence capabilities of our Baltic allies.

In recent years, Congress has reaffirmed through the annual *National Defense Authorization Act* and *Defense Appropriations Act* that the United States should strengthen security cooperation with interoperability among Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The Baltic states are among America's most capable allies, firmly committed to investing in their own defense and meeting NATO spending commitments. U.S. security assistance to the Baltics bolsters regional and European stability while protecting U.S. and allied security interests. Any proposed cuts to U.S. security assistance will undermine deterrence efforts and embolden adversaries.

Baltic Security Initiative. Section 1230C of S. 2296 and Section 1306 of H.R. 3838 would authorize the Baltic Security Initiative, an effort created by Congress in 2021 with bipartisan support. The initiative provides targeted security assistance to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, three vital NATO allies facing direct Russian aggression. This funding has helped enhance key defense capabilities in the Baltics, including long-range precision fire systems, integrated air and missile defense, maritime awareness, and improved cyber defenses and resilience to hybrid threats. Authorizing this program—without creating any new authorities or bureaucracies—is critical to ensuring its continuation amid concerns that the Pentagon may terminate certain security assistance programs, including for the Baltics.

Transfers of HIMARS between Baltic states. Section 1230B of S. 2296 allows the Baltic states to share High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and related ammunition for training and operational needs without requiring additional U.S. approval, streamlining defense cooperation and enhancing the collective defense capabilities in the region. All three Baltic states are procuring HIMARS, and consistent with U.S. recommendations,

pursuing joint maintenance of their systems to allow the fleet to operate freely within the Baltics. Russia continues to test NATO through provocative incursions into Baltic airspace and views the region as a single operational area, as reflected in NATO's regional defense plans. Improving the effectiveness of HIMARS deployments and enhancing collective defense capabilities will further strengthen deterrence and complicate Russia's strategic planning.

These provisions reflect Congress' bipartisan commitment to regional stability and the collective defense of NATO in the face of escalating Russian aggression. Thank you for your attention to our request.

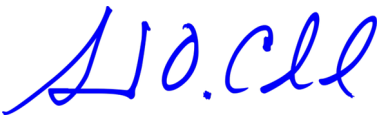
Sincerely,



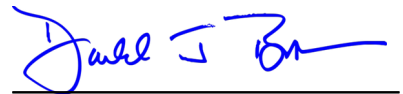
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



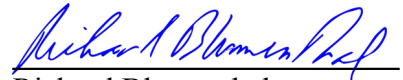
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



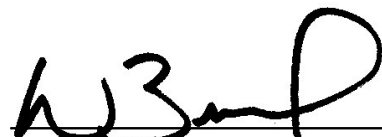
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



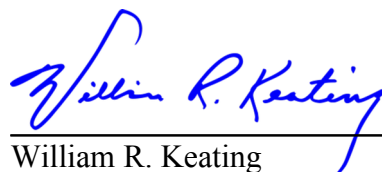
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



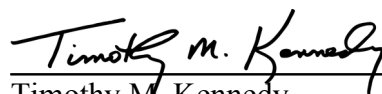
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



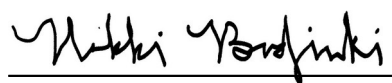
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



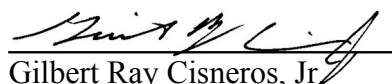
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
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Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress