

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2012

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Young and Ranking Member Dicks:

Sexual assault in the military is, as Secretary Panetta said recently, "an affront to the basic American values we defend, and a stain on the good honor of the great majority of our troops and their families." We believe that the Department of Defense is taking the prevention of and response to sexual assault seriously, specifically through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

One of the outstanding advances made by the military is in the area of criminal investigations and the training of military personnel forces to properly investigate and prosecute sexual assault cases. The formation of Special Victims Units has led to improved investigation and prosecution of cases, which serves not only to bring offenders to justice, but also as a deterrent to future incidents of sexual assault.

Special Victims Units have been training over 7,000 students per year in their Advanced Sexual Assault Investigation Training courses. The broader law enforcement community has taken notice of the excellent training being offered in the military and has requested consultation and training. Demand far exceeds the current manpower and resources of the Special Victim Units.

We believe the training being offered through these advanced courses has the potential to bring offenders to justice and prevent future assaults, both within and beyond the military. There is an opportunity to revolutionize the way sexual assault cases are investigated and prosecuted, with our military in the lead. Therefore, we support the President's Budget request of \$24, 673,000 for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, and request \$1.8 million of that funding be dedicated to the Special Victim Unit Advanced Sexual Assault Investigation Training.

Sincerely,

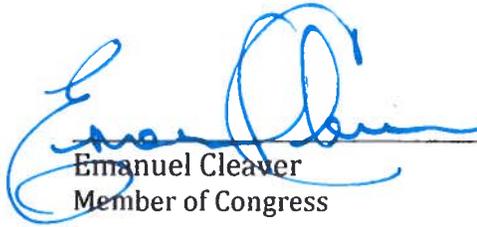
 

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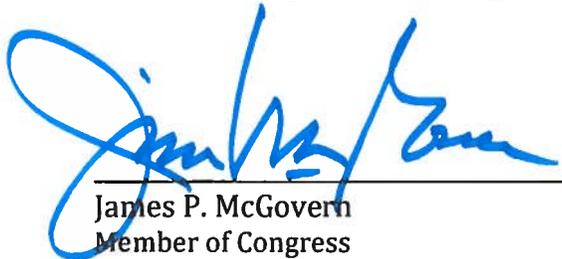
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