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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

September 23, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E970
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

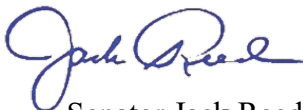
Section 1067 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159) requires you to provide the congressional defense committees with a copy of any new or revised executive order (EXORD) issued at the direction of the President or the Secretary of Defense within 15 days. Additionally, section 1744 of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) requires that you provide for a committee review of EXORDs approved by the Secretary of Defense or the commander of a combatant command not later than 30 days after receiving a written request by the Chairman or Ranking Member of a congressional defense committee.

Pursuant to these laws, we write to request the committee be provided all EXORDs approved by the Secretary of Defense or the commander of a combatant command underpinning Department of Defense activities to combat drug trafficking cartels. For the purposes of reviewing these EXORDs, we have designated the following appropriately cleared committee staff: John Keast, Brendan Gavin, Rick Berger, Lauren Johnson, Isaac Jalkanen, Adam Barker, Elizabeth King, Meredith Werner, Jon Clark, Michael Noblet, and Maggie McNamara Cooper.

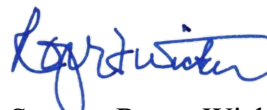
Additionally, section 1744 of Public Law 116-92 requires the Department to submit a quarterly report identifying and summarizing all EXORDs approved by the Secretary or the commander of a combatant command in effect for the Department of Defense. Unfortunately, the Department has not complied with this requirement. We note that section 1055 of the committee-reported NDAA for Fiscal Year 2026 (S.2296) would prohibit expenditure of more than 75 percent of funds authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 for the Office of the Secretary of Defense until the Department complies with section 1744.

Thank you for your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,



Senator Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee



Senator Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee