

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 4, 2020

The Honorable Jim Inhofe  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Reed, and Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you work to finalize a conference agreement on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we request that you retain language in the House bill authorizing the Secretary of Defense to establish a grant program for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) units.

The United States is expected to face a shortage of 3.4 million skilled technical workers by 2022. A recent study found that less than half of K-12 students are getting any cyber-related education. The Department of Homeland Security has appropriately recognized this shortage as a national security issue. To address this gap, the White House's 2017 National Security Strategy commits to, "support[ing] apprenticeships and workforce development programs that prepare American workers for high-wage manufacturing and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs of the 21st century."

To support the goals of the National Security Strategy, JROTC can provide an extracurricular experience to those among this public service-oriented, highly diverse population of young Americans who demonstrate a penchant for computer science, cybersecurity, and related subjects. Recognizing the potential for engaging JROTC youth, the United States Air Force, in collaboration with industry and non-profit partners, has launched pilot programs that provide evidence-based computer science and cybersecurity education at schools serving JROTC youth.

The FY 2020 NDAA amended Title 10 to include "instruction or activities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics" within JROTC. Building on this provision,

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Section 511 of the FY 2021 House NDAA authorizes the Secretary of Defense to issue grants to schools for JROTC STEM training and education. Activities include support for instructors; the acquisition of materials, hardware, and software; efforts and events that improve the quality of the educational experience; the development of travel opportunities, mentoring programs, and informal education; and the pursuit of certifications in STEM subjects. Section 511 also encourages interagency coordination and requires the Secretary of Defense to establish outcome-based metrics and internal and external assessments to evaluate the merits and benefits of activities funded.

For the United States to maintain its military and technological superiority over its adversaries, including China, effective and inclusive STEM education remains necessary. JROTC STEM education, computer science, and cybersecurity programs add yet another layer in preparing America's youth for a better future and addressing the growing needs of our workforce. The undersigned members strongly urge you to retain Section 511 of the House bill in the final NDAA conference report.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you throughout the conference process.

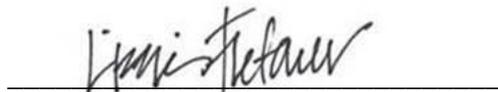
Sincerely,



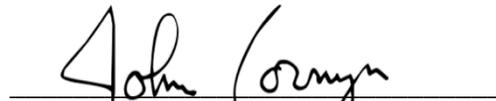
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



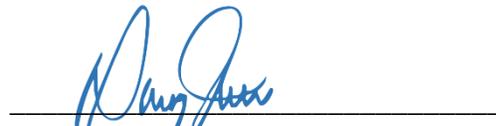
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



John Cornyn  
United States Senator

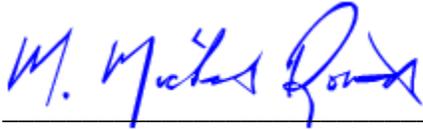


Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Doug Jones  
United States Senator

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The Honorable Jack Reed  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

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\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

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The Honorable Adam Smith  
The Honorable Jack Reed  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Lori Trahan  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Marc A. Veasey  
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