

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

July 29, 2025

Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of Defense  
Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We oppose the Department of Defense's (DOD) recent request to transfer funds from the Navy's Working Capital Fund to pay for DOD's non-reimbursable support to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) immigration enforcement and removal operations. The Department does not have the legal authority to obligate funds for immigration detention facilities under section 284 of title 10, U.S. Code, nor from appropriations in the Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense account.

We urge you, instead, to refocus your activities on the Department's core military mission: supporting combat readiness and lethality. Since January 2025, DOD has chosen to provide more than \$838 million in non-reimbursable DOD support to DHS. Those transfers come at a cost; a dollar spent on immigration enforcement is a dollar unavailable to prepare and equip our troops. Although we did not vote for the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (P.L. 119-21) because of its harmful effects on working class and vulnerable Americans, we recognize that the law provides \$1 billion in new funds to DOD, as well as more than \$170 billion in new funds to DHS to pay for the type of immigration enforcement activities that DOD was previously subsidizing. In light of this newly enacted legislation, we urge you to use these new funds to restore the military readiness that was previously deprioritized. With the funds now available to DHS, there is no need to continue non-reimbursable support to DHS, and the work of domestic immigration enforcement can and must be returned to DHS. Deploying military personnel for these tasks does not build lethality and risks politicizing those forces.

We believe the readiness of our military is vitally important and that our men and women in uniform should be focused on DOD's core missions. We look forward to your prompt attention and action.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress