

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-3605

September 29, 2021

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

The Honorable Jack Reed Chairman Senate Armed Services Committee 228 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Mike Rogers Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee 2216 Rayburn Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Inhofe Ranking Member Senate Armed Services Committee 228 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

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

As you begin the conference committee process to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022, we write to strongly urge you to strike Sec. 529 of the House version, H.R. 4350. We are greatly concerned that if enacted, Sec. 529 would violate the Second Amendment rights of our nation's brave servicemembers by allowing military judges and magistrates to issue military court gun confiscation orders.

Even more concerning, under this provision, such an order could be issued by a military court on an *ex parte* basis – meaning the order could be issued without the servicemember even being present in court to defend themselves. We believe this is a serious breach of due process that demands your full attention.

Every single day, brave American servicemembers serve in harm's way to defend our nation, our way of life, and the very constitutional rights that Sec. 529 would erode. This dangerous provision must be excluded from the final package. Again, we ask for your support to strike Sec. 529 of H.R. 4350 from the final conference report of the FY 2022 NDAA. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

STEPHANIE BICE Member of Congress RICHARD HUDSON Member of Congress

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