

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Secretary Hegseth,

We write with significant concern over reports that the military could move to cut ties with Scouting America, withdraw support from the National Jamboree, and prohibit Scout troops from meeting at military bases. We urge you to maintain the robust relationship between Scouting and the military and immediately cease consideration of any plan that would sever the strong bond between these organizations.

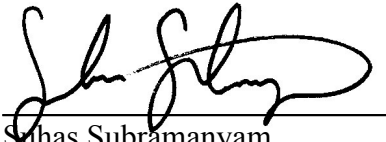
For over a century, Boy Scouts and Scouting America have maintained a productive partnership with the Department of Defense and the military. Scouting has long instilled the values of leadership, citizenship, and service in countless young Americans, developing generation upon generation of young leaders and strengthening the early recruitment pipeline into the military with young men and women who understand what it means to serve their community and their country. As just one illustration of this fact, approximately one in five West Point cadets are Eagle Scouts.

Such a drastic policy change will also have real impacts on real people. Military families rely heavily on Scout units on bases for stability during frequent relocations. Loss of base access for Scouting troops could cut off youth development programs for these families. Additionally, the long-standing automatic rank increase for Eagle Scouts, from E-1 to E-3, would likely be eliminated if the partnership ends, further weakening the leadership pipeline.

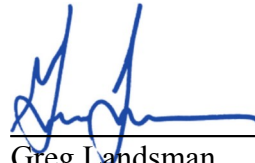
This proposal has been met with significant concerns among military families, youth program advocates, and military officials, concerns that we share. Scouting is a nonpartisan organization with a long history of collaboration with presidential administrations on both sides of the aisle, and it would be extremely detrimental to our national security and thousands of young Americans to cut off this partnership.

We once again strongly urge you to reverse course on this decision. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

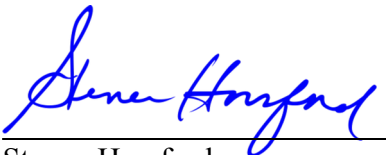
Sincerely,



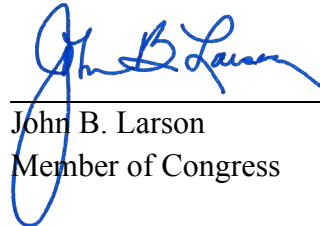
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



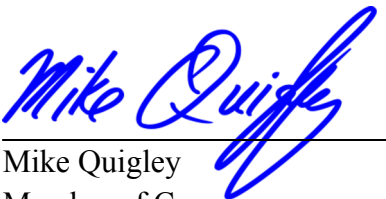
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



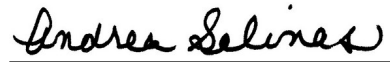
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



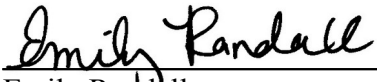
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



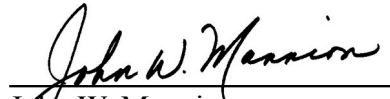
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress