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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

The Honorable Thom Tillis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Personnel
Senate Armed Services Committee
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Tillis,

I am respectfully requesting that the Subcommittee on Personnel hold a hearing on the troubling increases of suicide among our service members and their families. I am confident you are as passionate about the well-being of our service members and their families as I am, and you are as eager to find answers to this persistent and unacceptable problem.

In the wake of yesterday's Department of Defense Annual Suicide Report there are important questions that need to be asked. The responsibility for finding meaningful answers and solutions falls within our committee's oversight role. The report details several troubling trends, especially with respect to a sudden increase in suicides among our active duty service members. The data and findings provided in the report highlight the alarming ineffectiveness of prevention efforts and underscore the need for new approaches to combating the challenges posed by military service on the mental health on those who sacrifice so much.

As the Chairman and Ranking members of the Subcommittee on Personnel, we must honor our responsibility to our military members and their families by calling for a hearing on this issue. I look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator