

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 22, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran:

As the committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Appropriations bill, we write to request your support for the United Service Organizations (USO). As you know, the USO has been the bridge between the American people and our men and women in uniform since before World War II. As an additional 30,000 troops deploy to Afghanistan and the needs of our injured troops and their families continue to grow, funding for the USO is more vital than ever.

During Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, the USO has mobilized at a rate not seen since the Vietnam War. To meet the ongoing challenges posed by these conflicts, the USO is adding facilities and expanding programs to address the most immediate requirements of America's troops and their families. For example, USO centers in Southwest Asia support more than 1 million troop visits annually. Improved satellite connectivity allows 200,000 free calls home each month. The USO Wounded Warrior Center at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center served over 50,000 wounded warriors, their families, and caregivers in its first year. Additional funding will enable the USO to continue to support our men and women in uniform and their families through these and other activities and initiatives.

Again, we respectfully urge you to provide funding for the USO in the FY 2011 Defense Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your leadership and your consideration of this request.

We certify that neither we, nor our immediate family, have a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally-directed spending items requested for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Appropriations bill, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9, Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,





Whitmore

Rabit Menendez

My Bances

Frank R. Laukenberg

Kay R. Hagan

J.R.

M.M.
Mary Landrin

Al Frank

B. J. Sanders

Bob Casey, Jr.

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
