

Supporting our nation's troops and military families is among my highest priorities in Congress. Our men and women in uniform are serving with great skill and sacrifice to protect our freedoms and security. I am especially proud to represent the airmen at Beale Air Force Base, located near Marysville. As the headquarters for the U-2, Global Hawk, and MC-12 spy planes, Beale personnel provide an incredibly valuable intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capability to our commanders and troops on the ground on a daily basis. This capability helps protect U.S. troops and equips them with the real-time intelligence information they need to succeed on the battlefield.

It is critical that our nation maintain its military superiority so our servicemembers can continue to protect our national security interests. While radical jihadists do not currently threaten our military with tanks, ships, and fighter jets, I believe it would be deeply irresponsible for Congress to stop pursuing state-of-the-art weapons. The unfortunate reality is that countries such as North Korea and Iran could pose a conventional military threat in the near future. Meanwhile, Russia and China, countries in which the United States has uneasy relations, are aggressively strengthening their militaries (for instance, both nations are pursuing stealth aircraft similar to our nation's F-22) and could threaten our military superiority in the coming years.

I am therefore alarmed by the Obama Administration's push for cuts in key weapons programs. For instance, I am concerned by their opposition to purchasing more F-22s and their termination of a key missile defense capability in Europe. To be sure, the Pentagon can fall victim to waste and fraud just like any other federal agency. I support close oversight and accountability of their operations and proposals, and eliminating programs not wanted by our armed forces such as a controversial second engine for the Joint Strike Fighter. But I believe it would be deeply irresponsible to deny our military the tools and resources they seek—and need—to ensure that our military remains the best-trained, most capable in the world.

Concerning foreign affairs, I believe the United States military and the U.S. State Department cannot—and should not—try to police the world. But I believe our nation should pursue diplomacy whenever it can advance our national security, as well as consider economic sanctions and, and, as a last resort, military options, when an adversary threatens our security and way of life. In Afghanistan, I believe President Obama and Congress should remain committed to our counterinsurgency strategy. This mission is vital to our security because its new democratic government is fighting radical jihadists while the Taliban, which is trying to regain power, is the same group that provided al Qaeda a safe haven to plot the September 11 terrorist attacks. Among many other priorities, I am also focused on Iran and North Korea's nuclear programs, the diverse and persistent threats against Israel, Iraq's continued development as a stable U.S. ally, and President Obama's unwise determination to bring

captured terrorist suspects to our nation.

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