

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 9, 2017

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Mattis:

As Members of the House Armed Services Committee, we write with great concern regarding recent reports from the *Washington Post* and others detailing the staggering costs to our defense agencies of supporting President Trump's frequent travel to New York City and Florida since taking office.

According to reports, President Trump's travels have cost nearly \$10 million in taxpayer funds in his first month in office alone – far exceeding the annual travel costs of his predecessor. Last year, the GAO estimated a three-day trip by President Obama to Illinois and Florida – a visit that included both official and unofficial business activities – cost DOD \$2.8 million alone, excluding classified and personnel expenses.

As Members of the Committee, we are acutely aware of the Department's budgetary constraints and are troubled by the demands placed on Department's military and civilian personnel by President Trump's travels.

We respectfully request the following information from DOD:

- How much has DOD spent to date in support of the President's travel?
- How is such travel expected to impact DOD resources and staff?
- What steps will be taken to ensure that U.S. government resources remain dedicated to their intended purpose of protecting national security?

While DOD is obligated to support presidential travel, the enormous cost to American taxpayers incurred over the first month of the Trump Administration raises serious concerns about the fiscal sustainability of these arrangements and their potential to divert critical funds from DOD's core missions.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress