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## United States Senate

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March 20, 2018

The Honorable Jefferson Sessions  
Attorney General of the United States  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-00001

Dear Attorney General Sessions,

I write today to inquire about the role of the Department of Justice in cases of sexual assault involving students attending schools operated by the Department of Defense. It was recently reported that there have been several hundred instances of juvenile sexual assault involving students at Department of Defense schools since 2007. Moreover, it has been alleged that when cases are forwarded to federal authorities, they are rarely prosecuted.

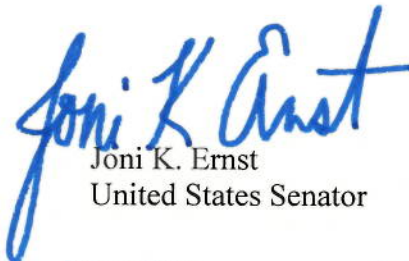
I am troubled by these reports, not only because they involve claims of sexual assault involving juveniles, but also because they undermine the trust placed in the Department of Justice to appropriately manage cases involving children of our military families.

While I recognize that many factors contribute to the decision as to how a case should be handled by prosecutors, I am nevertheless concerned that there is insufficient attention given to cases involving children attending schools operated by the Department of Defense. As such, I seek information concerning the following:

1. Since 2007, how many allegations of sexual assault involving minors have been referred to the Department of Justice for action by the Department of Defense?
2. When allegations such as these are forwarded to the Department of Justice by the Department of Defense, what procedural steps are taken to review and assign these cases to the appropriate party?
3. Who is responsible for making charging decisions in these cases?
4. Since 2007, how many of these cases have been prosecuted by Department of Justice attorneys?

I look forward to your prompt response in this matter.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

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