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United States Senate

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The Honorable Mark T. Esper
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Esper,

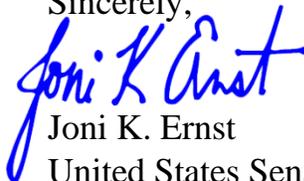
I am writing to you regarding the stunning announcement by the Department of Defense Inspector General that a senior civilian official recently retired before he could be disciplined for sexually harassing his employees for a period of seven years.

Please provide the following information regarding this unacceptable failure to aggressively prosecute and stop persistent sexual harassment in the case of this senior leader:

- The full and unredacted report findings by the DOD Inspector General;
- Actions taken, in any the Department of Defense in response to employee complaints about this persistent sexual harassment;
- A summary of promotions, awards, or performance incentives this employee received during this time period and the senior officials who approved them, and;
- The sexual assault policies and training standards for all employees in the agencies within the Under Secretary for Research and Engineering and whether this employee completed required training regarding sexual harassment.

The Department of Defense's failure to hold this senior official responsible raises serious doubts as the commitment of the senior leadership to stop sexual assault and harassment in the workplace and furthers the distrust that laws and policies regarding sexual harassment simply do not apply to senior leaders of the military. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

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