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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Statement for the Record
Jason Crow
To be Submitted on April 11, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of including several important provisions in the Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA that I believe will enhance our national security.

The NDAA is one of the most significant pieces of legislation we consider each year. It is a reflection of our values, priorities, and unwavering support for the men and women who serve in uniform, as well as their families who sacrifice alongside them.

First, I request your support in securing funding for the Power Independence Project at Buckley Space Force Base (SFB). This is the U.S. Space Force's number one FY25 Unfunded Priority. With this funding, we aim to enhance energy resilience and independence at Buckley. By investing in Buckley SFB's energy infrastructure, we're strengthening our military readiness while bolstering the resilience of our infrastructure to withstand any challenges that may arise. This funding request is even more urgent with the evolving threat landscape and the need for reliable energy to support critical missions like the Space-Based Infrared Systems (SBIRS).

Please again include language to establish a Space National Guard (SNG). This request entails the formalization of the SNG as a reserve component of the United States Space Force (USSF), thereby aligning its structure and authorities with those of existing National Guard components. By establishing the SNG, we not only enhance the resilience and readiness of our space capabilities but also leverage the expertise and resources of the National Guard. The SNG will play a vital role in safeguarding our nation's interests in space and ensuring the security of critical space assets.

Additionally, I request that you include language to address the critical need for restoring and enhancing the Air Force's fighter force structure and air dominance. Establishing a minimum of 25 fighter squadrons in the Air National Guard is crucial for our overall readiness and resilience. By ensuring the full, one-for-one recapitalization of Air National Guard fighter squadrons, we can safeguard our nation's air superiority and maintain a credible deterrent posture in an increasingly contested and dynamic security environment.

Please also authorize an increase of \$3,000,000 for the Afghanistan War Commission. This bipartisan legislative commission was established by Congress in December 2021 to conduct a

comprehensive review of key decisions related to U.S. military, intelligence, foreign assistance, and diplomatic involvement in Afghanistan from June 2001 to August 2021. I strongly believe in the need for a full accounting of our nation's longest war.

Finally, it is also essential to honor the promises we made to Afghan partners who worked to support U.S. operations in Afghanistan. In keeping with the Afghan Allies Protection Act that I lead bicamerally with Senator Shaheen, I request authorization of an additional 8,000 visas and an extension of the program through 2029. This will raise the total authorized visas to 58,500, following the successful inclusion of an additional 12,000 Afghan Special Immigrant Visas in the FY2024 appropriations process.

I encourage the House Armed Services Committee to ensure this year's NDAA incorporates the provisions I have highlighted to enhance our national security posture. I look forward to working with the Committee to advance these and other priorities that I hope will be included in the final legislation.