

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 21, 2011

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

We are writing you to express our support for the attached memorandum dated September 27, 2011, sent by then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen, to your office, in support of the Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP). The program was initially authorized and funded in 2005 to support Guard and Reserve families in addressing unique challenges caused by lengthy troop deployments abroad.

We are very pleased to see that CSSP has garnered significant support from top military leadership and we encourage you to provide CSSP with the support they need to continue serving our military servicemen and women. To that end, it is our understanding that Dr. Clifford Stanley, Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, is currently working to identify an appropriate home for CSSP within one of his directorates (e.g., Reserve Affairs, Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, Military Community and Family Policy, and Health Affairs); and a more dependable funding source for the program in the future.

CSSP will require continuation funding at the beginning of the 2012 calendar year, in order to be able to continue offering integrated, community-based solutions for the behavioral health issues facing our service members and their families. We encourage you to prioritize the Department's efforts to assist CSSP and keep our offices apprised of progress being made.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator

Enclosure: Letter from Admiral Michael Mullen to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated September 27, 2011.