

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker McCarthy,

We write with continued appreciation for and dedication to the United States' support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), our NATO Allies and for our partner Ukraine, as it continues to resist an unprovoked and unjust Russian invasion. To demonstrate American support for the NATO mission amidst this existential threat to the rules-based world order, we urge you to extend an invitation to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to address a joint session of Congress before his term expires this year.

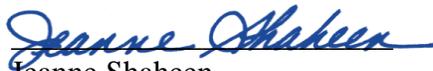
For over 70 years, NATO has played a key role in promoting and protecting transatlantic security and maintaining a peaceful, rules-based world order. Starting as an Alliance of 12 founding nations, NATO has grown to 31 members who remain committed to safeguarding Allies' freedom and security. Although urgent action by some NATO Allies is still needed to advance Sweden's accession without delay, but by welcoming Finland into the Alliance, NATO proved that it is the strongest and most unified it has ever been despite Vladimir Putin's continued efforts to wage an unprovoked and illegal war in Ukraine. Together with our Allies, the U.S. has provided essential humanitarian assistance and defense capabilities to help the Ukrainians secure victory.

This year, the 2023 NATO Summit in Vilnius will require Allies to agree upon steps to advance the recently approved Strategic Concept, which affirmed the strength and unity of NATO, bolstered deterrence on the Eastern Flank and asserted the Alliance's new objectives to advance our collective security, including through the important role NATO plays in responding to emerging security challenges in the Indo-Pacific. Our collective response in support of Ukraine sends an unmistakable message to both our partners and adversaries that NATO is committed to supporting the rules-based and democratic order around the world.

At this critical juncture in transatlantic security, we urge you to invite Secretary General Stoltenberg to address a joint session of Congress to speak directly to the American people on why strong bipartisan support for NATO is critical to advancing U.S. national security interests. Secretary General Stoltenberg has served this role with distinction and led NATO during the most pivotal moment in its history. The United States would benefit from an opportunity to hear directly from the Secretary General before he is due to step down from this role this year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

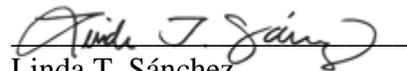
Sincerely,



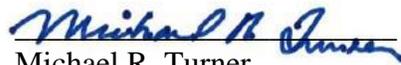
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress