

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 14, 2018

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Mark Green  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for  
International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland  
Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Mattis, Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Nielsen and Administrator Green:

We write today to request the status of the United States Strategy to Promote the Participation of Women in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, as required by the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-68), which President Donald Trump signed into law on October 6, 2017. While this strategy was due to Congress no later than one year after it was enacted into law, we have yet to receive the strategy or a formal report on its status, despite requests.

There is substantial and growing evidence to support the link between women's involvement in peace processes and resulting conflict prevention and resolution. Therefore, we were pleased that last year Congress passed and the President signed into law the bipartisan Women, Peace and Security Act. As you know, this law creates a framework for a government-wide policy to promote the participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution.

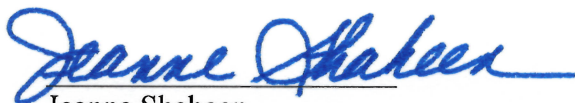
The strategy required by the law will create the doctrine that U.S. policy is based upon for the next four years. We anticipate that this plan will include goals for women's participation across a number of important areas as well as a detailed plans on achieving these goals. We are deeply concerned that the deadline for the report's submission to Congress has passed without a forthcoming strategy. Therefore, we ask the following questions regarding the strategy and look forward to your responses:

1. When can we expect the final strategy to be submitted to Congress?
2. What are the specific reasons for this delay?
3. What measures have been taken to complete the strategy in a timely manner?
4. Do your respective agencies require clarification or congressional directive regarding the law or its requirements?
5. Have any steps been taken by your agencies to implement the requirements of WPS into programs and policies?


In addition, in the absence of a final strategy, we respectfully request a briefing on the strategy in its current form and the process for its completion. We would like to assess where the strategy is in its development and determine what Congress can do to facilitate its timely completion.

The Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017 acknowledges the vital role of women in all aspects of peace, from conflict prevention to resolution. The United States is the first country to legislatively pass such a law, and this strategy will almost certainly serve as a blueprint for the rest of the world. This is an opportunity to create an overarching doctrine reflecting the value of women's participation and leadership in peace processes. We look forward to reviewing this strategy and working with you on its implementation.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator