

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Ryan McCarthy  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350

General James C. McConville  
Chief of Staff of the Army  
200 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary McCarthy and General McConville:

Yesterday, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, who I understand is an active duty Army officer serving on detail in the White House, testified before Congress as part of an impeachment inquiry into whether the President jeopardized national security by pressing Ukraine to interfere with our 2020 elections and by withholding security assistance provided by Congress to help Ukraine counter Russian aggression.

Since LTC Vindman's testimony was announced and especially in the past 24 hours, he has been vilified by individuals in the media and elsewhere. Although he has served our country for more than 20 years and is a recipient of the Purple Heart after being injured while serving in Iraq, he has been called a variety of derogatory terms and some have even gone so far as to call him a spy and question his loyalty to the United States.

These attacks are outrageous and unacceptable, but more importantly, this vitriol toward LTC Vindman may result in professional reprisals and threats to his personal safety and that of his family.

LTC Vindman and whistleblowers like him are standing up for the Constitution they swore an oath to defend. He is a patriot for being willing to do what we hope and expect every service member will do: to tell the truth when asked. It is incumbent on the Army to ensure that he is afforded the same protections as whistleblowers and protected from reprisal for testifying before Congress.

I therefore ask that you provide me with a briefing on what actions the Army is taking to ensure that LTC Vindman and whistleblowers like him are afforded appropriate protections – both from retaliation and for personal safety of him and his family. Further, I urge you to issue public statements indicating your support for him and others in the U.S. Armed Forces who fulfill their duty to tell the truth when asked to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Mark T. Esper  
Secretary of Defense