

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth and Director Gabbard:

We write to request that you immediately brief the full Senate on military strikes against alleged narcotraffickers in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. We also request that you provide all legal opinions related to these strikes and a list of the groups or other entities the President has deemed targetable.

To date, the Administration has failed to provide the full Senate with the basic information necessary to carry out its oversight responsibilities, including the identities of the groups against which the President has authorized the use of military force—even as reports increase that the Administration is planning additional strikes inside Venezuela. Additional information is vital for the public and Congress as the Administration draws us deeper and deeper towards open conflict—putting our men and women in uniform at risk.

The Administration has already conducted more than one dozen strikes, killing at least 61 people, without providing answers to fundamental questions about the policy rationale, domestic and international legal justification, or long-term consequences. Instead, the Administration has selectively shared what has at times been contradictory information with certain Members of Congress, while excluding others. Even more concerning, in a breach of longstanding practice, on at least one occasion the Administration has conducted a partisan briefing exclusively for Members of the Majority party.

The Administration has also failed to provide the full Senate with basic details surrounding these operations routinely provided by past Administrations during similar conflicts. Here, the Administration has yet to provide the full Senate with a list of the groups it has designated as targetable, the identities of the individuals targeted and killed or intelligence (including unedited video of the strikes) confirming these groups and individuals were lawful targets. Nor has it provided information demonstrating the individuals killed were in fact drug traffickers, the types and quantities of drugs destroyed or any justification for why more cost-effective and legally justifiable measures were not pursued, such as interdiction.

During other significant national security developments, including the counter ISIS campaign in Syria under the first Trump Administration, prior Administrations provided cabinet-level,

bipartisan briefings to all Members of Congress—at a regular cadence. This Administration, unfortunately, has been absent.

We support working to stop cartels and drug traffickers from transporting drugs to the United States; however, the Administration has shared no information to suggest that its military operations in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean are effective. As you know, the overwhelming majority of fentanyl trafficked into the United States is not transported through the Caribbean or Eastern Pacific, but throughout ports of entry along the Southwest border with Mexico.

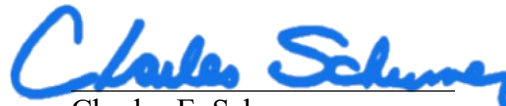
The Administration's actions also threaten to destabilize the region and put U.S. service members in harm's way. The American people deserve straight answers about the details of these operations, their legal basis, and the Administration's broader goals before we find ourselves entangled in yet another endless conflict.

We urge you to promptly brief the full Senate on the Administration's actions to date, its future plans for the region, and to answer fully questions that we and the American public have about these operations.

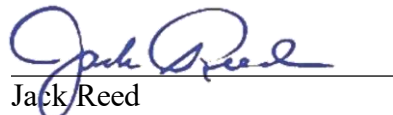
Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations



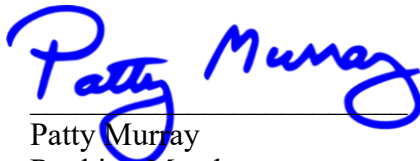
Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate



Jack Reed
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services



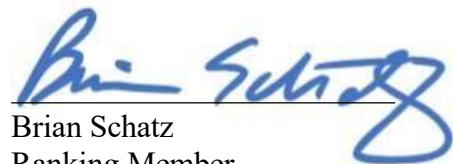
Mark Warner
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Select Committee on
Intelligence



Patty Murray
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations



Christopher A. Coons
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense



Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs