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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3303

October 2, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Hagel:

I am deeply troubled by recent media reports of the Department of Defense's plans to expand the pilot program Military Accessions Vital to National Interests, or MAVNI. Expansion of this program to include children of illegal immigrants is unacceptable, especially at a time when the armed forces are removing tens of thousands of U.S. citizens from active duty military ranks. With this in mind, I would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. How many service members enlisted through the MAVNI program since 2008? What military occupational specialties does the MAVNI program target and to what degree have those brought in under this program fallen into these military occupational specialties?

2. How will the Department of Defense ensure that equally qualified U.S. citizens and legal residents are not unfairly displaced by illegal immigrants?

3. Please describe the security clearance accreditation for the service members qualifying under this proposal. How does the Department of Defense justify the granting of a security clearance to someone who is not a legal resident and whose next of kin are openly violating U.S. law? On the same note, how can the Department of Defense conduct a thorough background check of a candidate if the background of the individual is incomplete and no records to validate claims of residence potentially exist?

It is important for the American people to understand the intent of the MAVNI program expansion and the justification to hire illegal immigrants over equally qualified U.S. citizens and legal residents. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress