

February 3, 2012

Dear Mr. Danilow,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding military defense spending. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this issue.

National defense is the primary constitutional function of the federal government. However, that does not mean the Department of Defense (DoD) should receive a blank check without serious oversight. In order to supply our troops with the tools they need, it makes sense to prioritize spending where it is needed the most.

Since 2001, military spending has increased by nearly 120 percent. National defense remains the nation's top priority, but current spending levels are no longer justifiable to securing our country.

In November 2011, Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.) introduced the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012 (S. 1867). This legislation provides the authorization for spending by DoD for procurement, base management and military operations. While debating S. 1867, I and many of my colleagues in the Senate have introduced amendments to address spending and taken steps to prioritize specific projects.

I did not support S. 1867, for many other reasons. Sections within S. 1867 expanded the power of the federal government to detain terrorism suspects, including U.S. citizens, under military control without due process until the end of hostilities. Though acts of terrorism are something we all wish to prevent, we must maintain the right of a U.S. citizens to receive their due process for crimes they are being accused.

In a compromise amendment, the Senate passed language that allowed detainment provisions to maintain current interpretation of the law, as determined by the Supreme Court in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*. Under S. 1867, U.S. citizens captured abroad and working against the government of the United States, can still be held under military custody.

Despite my opposition, S. 1867 passed the Senate by a vote of 93-7 and was referred to a conference committee to settle differences between the House of Representatives and Senate versions. The conference report was attached to the House version of the bill - H.R. 1540. Once again despite my opposition, H.R. 1540 passed both the House and Senate by votes of 283-136 and 86-13 and has been signed to law by President Obama.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rand Paul, MD  
United States Senator