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GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY



November 24, 2025

The Honorable Mark Kelly  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Senator Kelly,

The decision to use military service members as political props in a video implying that the Commander-in-Chief may issue illegal orders crosses a line that should have never been approached. Your participation in this effort has understandably alarmed veterans, military families, and elected leaders who value the integrity and stability of our armed forces.

Every servicemember already knows, from their first day of training, that they are duty-bound to refuse a truly unlawful order. That principle is embedded in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, reinforced constantly through training, and well understood inside the ranks. It does not require a partisan campaign video. It does not require fear-mongering. And it does not require political operatives implying that the Commander-in-Chief is poised to commit crimes.

By leaving "unlawful orders" vague and undefined, the video aims to plant suspicion before any order has even been given. The unmistakable implication is that President Donald J. Trump is preparing to issue illegal commands. That insinuation is false. Worse, it encourages doubt in the chain of command itself—a foundational threat to military discipline and national readiness.

Under federal law, sedition includes attempts to cause insubordination, disloyalty, or refusal of duty among the armed forces (18 U.S.C. § 2387). The Democrat video's messaging—encouraging troops to question the lawfulness of hypothetical orders from a lawfully elected President—edges disturbingly close to that line.

Context matters. President Trump's recent statement referring to this type of conduct as "*seditious behavior, punishable by death*" reflects the severity with which U.S. law has historically treated efforts to undermine military obedience. Inciting confusion within the ranks during periods of global instability can jeopardize missions, risk American lives, and compromise national security in ways Congress has long recognized as gravely dangerous.

At a moment when global threats are rising, our servicemembers deserve steady leadership from those who know better. Instead, this video is yet another example of how radicalized the Democratic Party has become in its rhetoric and its willingness to politicize the military. It is also

impossible to ignore the timing: just weeks after Democrats elevated a self-described communist to lead the most populous city in America. The American people are watching these choices, and they are rightly alarmed.

Those of us who have served in uniform understand the stakes. The trust in the chain of command is not theoretical – it is the backbone of military readiness. Messaging that encourages hesitation, confusion, or doubt in that chain jeopardizes missions and endangers the men and women who serve.

We strongly urge you to publicly clarify your intent, retract your participation in this video, and reassure the American people that you do not support rhetoric that risks eroding discipline within our armed forces. At this moment in history, leaders who undermine the chain of command—whether intentionally or through reckless political messaging—must be held accountable for any damage their rhetoric inflicts on the readiness, discipline, and stability of the United States military.

This concern is not held by one person alone. The current and former Arizona state lawmakers who have signed below stand firmly behind this message.

Respectfully,



**Senator Kevin Payne**  
Arizona State Senate  
Former U.S. Navy, FC2



**President Warren Petersen**  
Arizona State Senate



**President Pro Temp T.J. Shope**  
Arizona State Senate



**Majority Leader John Kavanagh**  
Arizona State Senate



**Majority Whip Frank Carroll**  
Arizona State Senate



**Senator Janae Shamp**  
Arizona State Senate



**Senator Mark Finchem**  
Arizona State Senate



**Senator Shawnna Bolick**  
Arizona State Senate

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**Senator Vince Leach**  
Arizona State Senate



**Majority Leader Michael Carbone**  
Arizona House of Representatives



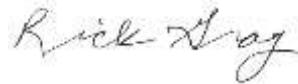
**Representative Nick Kupper**  
Arizona House of Representatives  
Retired US Air Force, MSgt



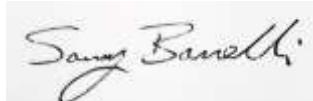
**Representative James Taylor**  
Arizona House of Representatives



**Representative Quang Nguyen**  
Arizona House of Representatives



**Former Majority Leader Rick Gray**  
Arizona State Senate



**Former Majority Leader Sonny Borrelli**  
Arizona State Senate  
Retired U.S. Marine Corps, GySgt