

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 7, 2011

Dear Colleague:

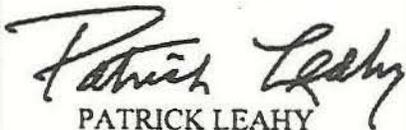
As you know, the Senate Armed Services Committee has convened a hearing at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday to receive testimony on the matter of adding the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The General Counsel of the Department of Defense, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Military Service Chiefs of Staff, and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau will all be present to offer testimony.

Because this hearing addresses the headlining provision of this Congress's National Guard Empowerment Act, S. 1025, we thought it might aid you in your preparation for the hearing to receive some background materials we have collected. Along with a memo and talking points, we have included several attachments described and annotated in the memo to help you more easily navigate the full discussion of our legislative proposal this year.

Before suggesting that the Congress add the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, we thoroughly analyzed the probable outcomes of our proposal and the probable outcomes of maintaining the status quo. Our conclusion was that while both approaches have risks and potential benefits, adding the Chief to the Joint Chiefs of Staff presents many more benefits than it does risks. We agree that the Congress should not make this change casually, and we commend Senator Levin and Senator McCain for scheduling this hearing. We hope that the hearing will confirm for others the wisdom of our proposal and diminish any lingering doubts that some may harbor about giving the National Guard a seat at the table and a voice in national security decision making.

If you have any questions about these materials, or if you would like to receive electronic copies of any of the enclosed documents, please have a member of your staff contact Will Goodman in the office of Senator Leahy at 4-4242 or Sergio Sarkany in the office of Senator Graham at 4-5972.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
Co-Chair  
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus



LINDSEY O. GRAHAM  
Co-Chair  
U.S. Senate National Guard Caucus