

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Avril D. Haines
Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

The Honorable William J. Burns
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Director Haines and Director Burns:

We write to request that the Intelligence Community refrain from expending National Intelligence Program (NIP) funds to charter any private or commercial aircraft to transport detainees from U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The United States faces an increasingly complex international security environment, and as leaders of the congressional intelligence committees, we must ensure that funds made available to the Intelligence Community are reserved for use in carrying out intelligence activities most critical to the nation's security. We are concerned by the threat of recidivism among individuals currently detained at the U.S. Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who are or may become eligible for release, especially given the current terrorism threat environment in the Middle East. While there are differing views among us regarding the Administration's stated policy of closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, we share the belief that NIP funds should not be used to charter any private or commercial aircraft to transport detainees.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to receiving a written response within two weeks of this letter assuring our Committees that these critical funds will not be used for these activities.

Sincerely,




Mark R. Warner
Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



Marco Rubio
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



Michael R. Turner
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence



James A. Himes
Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs