

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510
February 14, 2013

Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr.
U.S. Coast Guard
Headquarters
2100 2nd St SW Stop 7000
Washington DC 20593-7000

Dear Admiral Papp:

As the original sponsors of the Defense Sexual Trauma Response Oversight and Good Governance Act (STRONG Act) signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, we write to express our concern that the United States Coast Guard has not yet adopted an expedited transfer policy for victims of sexual violence as have the military departments under the authority of the Department of Defense.

The STRONG Act requires the development of sexual assault prevention and response training at every level of professional development. In addition, it affords victims the protection of expedited transfer away from the geographic location of their alleged attacker. While we understand the Coast Guard is not under the authority of the Department of Defense (DOD) absent a formal declaration of war, the spirit and intent of this law are to eliminate impediments to preventing sexual assault and provide for the protection of sexual violence victims throughout our nation's Armed Services, including the Coast Guard.

We respectfully request, therefore, a briefing no later than March 8, 2013 on the sexual assault response regulations, programs, and services that exist in the Coast Guard and how these policies align with the requirements of the STRONG Act. In the event that there are policies that cannot be implemented to align Coast Guard policy in a manner consistent with the provisions of the STRONG Act absent legislation, we request that you provide a list of such necessary changes to statute as a part of that briefing.

We also specifically request that the Coast Guard implement new policies to provide for the provision of expedited consideration of a request for transfer.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and for your prompt consideration of these concerns. We cannot, and will not, rest until the policy of zero tolerance is matched by the reality of zero tolerance.

Sincerely,

		
Susan M. Collins United States Senator	Michael Turner United States Representative	Niki Tsongas United States Representative