

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MILITARY FAMILIES WHO PETITIONED TUBERVILLE  
WELCOME RELEASE OF PROMOTION HOLDS**

WASHINGTON, DC - After thousands of military spouses mobilized by signing the Secure Families Initiative (SFI) "Stop Playing Politics with the Military" petition and calling their Senators to urge an end to the confirmation holds, the SFI community is relieved that Senator Tuberville has finally released the military leaders he was blocking from hard-earned promotion.

Secure Families Initiative was the first military spouse and family organization to publicly speak out against Tuberville's holds. For more than six months, SFI has been working with military families directly impacted by the holds to strategize and organize the broader military community. Military families were unnecessarily living in limbo and at the whim of one Senator for months.

**"Military spouses and family members recognized this stunt for what it was: using military leaders and their families as pawns in a political battle. But, we aren't pawns. We are pragmatic and patriotic Americans who refused to stand on the sidelines as Tuberville held our community hostage,"** said Kate Marsh Lord, Secure Families Initiative Communications Director and active-duty Air Force spouse. "We are relieved that the hold is finally over for the vast majority of nominees, but more than anything we need the Senate to return to demonstrating full respect for military service. Holding up promotions was never an acceptable strategy, it was thankfully completely ineffective, and no Senator should ever try it again."

**"The heroes of today's news are the thousands of everyday military family members who stood up and said "Enough!" when a single Senator decided to bully our community. We greet today's announcement with relief, and tremendous pride in our SFI members for making a difference,"** said Sarah Streyder, Secure Families Initiative Executive Director and active-duty Space Force spouse.

"We commend every single Senator who helped us bring this months-long nonsense to a close. Thanks to your interventions, military families can get back to serving our country without wondering where they're going to live or when they'll get paid," Streyder said. "We are especially grateful for **Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)** who worked tirelessly to bypass blanket holds and confirm all nominations. We applaud Armed Services Committee Chair **Jack Reed (D-RI)** and Senate Rules Committee Chair **Amy Klobuchar**

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**(D-MN)** who worked across the aisle to attempt to find a solution and championed a legislative solution if the holds were not released."

While we welcome the release of the vast majority of the leaders being held up by Tuberville, we are concerned for the remaining nominees. Today's news is undoubtedly a huge win, but we urge a speedy confirmation for the remaining nominees. The traditionally nonpartisan process has been irrevocably marred by partisan politics and we urge Senators to treat all nominees with the respect they've earned through decades of service to our country.

## **Background**

In July, Secure Families Initiative [delivered a petition titled "Stop Playing Politics with the Military"](#) signed by military family members to Senator Tuberville, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell. Petition signers more than doubled since delivery, and there are now 1100 signatories.

When the Senate returned from recess in September, Secure Families Initiative [mobilized military family members to take action](#) at the state and federal levels to continue to urge Senator Tuberville to end his political protest. In November, [SFI led support for Senate Resolution 444](#), a legislative solution to circumvent Tuberville's holds.

Secure Families Initiative is a nonpartisan organization of military spouses, family members, and supporters. Our mission is to mobilize diverse military partners, parents, kids, and veterans to vote and advocate for their communities, especially on issues of foreign policy, national security, and democracy.