

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2019

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing today to express our dismay and strong concern for the pending legal matter regarding Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Eddie Gallagher, USN a devoted husband, loving father and American war hero, who has served our nation faithfully for over 19 years. We completely comprehend and appreciate the necessity for good order and discipline within our Armed Forces. However, our experience has witnessed a verifiable bias against the warfighter that is completely political in nature by the United States Navy's Justice system. There have been many examples of poor treatment by the Navy to Chief Gallagher that we feel require your direct and personal attention.

Foremost, Chief Gallagher's current confinement is directly interfering with his right to a fair and speedy trial. Due to the fact that the Navy had initially assigned him legal representation stationed 330 miles away, Chief Gallagher was without any legal representation for eight weeks. In order for Chief Gallagher's new legal representation to speak with him at Navy Consolidated Brig Miramar Brig, they first must obtain permission to enter the base and are forced to speak with their client in rooms where, the Navy admits, correctional specialist or guards are present. Furthermore, if Chief Gallagher's legal representation requests to meet with him outside of the Brig, a painstakingly slow process must be completed with his parent command and coordinated through the Brig. This administrative process can take weeks. Without ample access to his attorneys, how can Chief Gallagher even receive a fair or speedy trial?

Secondly, Chief Gallagher has been in pretrial confinement at the Brig for over 21 weeks, 18 of which without being formally charged by the Navy. Throughout this time, the Navy is confining him in a general population, an environment consisting mostly of convicted sex offenders and pedophiles. Sadly when his family members visit, Chief Gallagher is only allowed one physical embrace with them and the Navy has confirmed reports that his child was required to wear "hospital gowns" while he visited. Equally disturbing, the critical medical and mental health care treatments Chief Gallagher was previously receiving for his excruciating combat injuries have mostly been suspended while he is in pretrial confinement.

Due to the Navy's imposing of limited access to his legal representation, it is our understanding that there is currently a discussion of postponing Chief Gallagher's trial until November 2019. Consequently, it is very possible for Chief Gallagher to remain in these pretrial confinement conditions and environment for over 14 months before he even had an opportunity to have his day in court.

Mr. President, this is unacceptable and, frankly, we find it appalling that a member of our military is treated in this manner. Based on these facts, we have determined, and respectfully request, that the only appropriate action would be for you, as Commander in Chief, to remove this case from the Navy's legal system and personally review and dismiss the charges against Chief Gallagher.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on this important matter. We remain available to discuss further or be of any assistance you deem necessary to address these issues.

Sincerely,



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress