



VOTE “NO” ON WALORSKI AMENDMENT (#19)---NEEDLESSLY IMPAIRS THE MILITARY’S ABILITY TO REPATRIATE GUANTANAMO DETAINEES WHO HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR TRANSFER

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TREASURER

RE: Vote “NO” on Walorski Amendment (#19) to the National Defense Authorization Act

Dear Representative:

The American Civil Liberties Union strongly urges you to vote “NO” this afternoon on the Walorski Amendment (#11) to the National Defense Authorization Act. The Walorski Amendment would needlessly impair the ability of the military and other national security components of the Executive Branch from repatriating Yemeni detainees at Guantanamo who have been CLEARED for transfer by all national security agencies. Of the 86 Guantanamo detainees who have been cleared for transfer to foreign countries, 56 men are Yemenis.

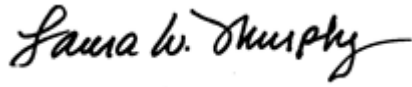
More than three years ago, President Obama—at the urging of Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein—urged the President to put a temporary moratorium on transfers to Yemen. However, in recognition of important changes in Yemen—including the change in government from former President Saleh to President Hadi---Chairman Feinstein wrote to the White House in April, “Although AQAP still has a strong presence in Yemen, I believe it would be prudent to re-visit the decision to halt transfers to Yemen and assess whether President Hadi’s government, with appropriate assistance, would be able to securely hold detainees in Sana’a.”

In recognition of the changes in Yemen, President Obama last month, in his speech at the National Defense University stated, “I am lifting the moratorium on detainee transfers to Yemen, so we can review them on a cases by case basis.” This important change means that the President lifted his self-imposed ban on transferring back to their home countries the majority of detainees who have been cleared for transfer to foreign countries.

The ACLU strongly urges you to vote “NO” on the Walorski Amendment and allow transfers of cleared detainees to move forward.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura W. Murphy". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Laura W. Murphy
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher E. Anders". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Christopher E. Anders
Senior Legislative Counsel