

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

June 20, 2024

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
Office of Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

I write to draw your attention to newly discovered information relevant to your ongoing investigation of the U.S. Coast Guard's handling of Operation Fouled Anchor and other reports of sexual misconduct. Last week, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Sexual Assault Response Coordinator resigned from her position and provided disturbing accounts of her experiences in relation to Operation Fouled Anchor. Among the allegations, she stated that to her knowledge, the survivors did not receive the Victim Reporting Preference Statement, CG-6095, at any point during or after the investigations of their reports of sexual misconduct. This is concerning and unacceptable as this form provides important documentation of reported sexual misconduct and enables victims to seek support services and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and potentially other benefits.

Maintaining the integrity of an ongoing investigation is a critical part of ensuring accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims. And yet, also critical is ensuring these victims receive timely access to every resource and service available. I therefore request that you immediately ensure that the survivors whose cases fall under the jurisdiction of your investigation receive information about the Victim Reporting Preference Statement as well as assistance with completing the form and seeking VA benefits should they so desire.

Further, this document is important for keeping updated records that can help track support to victims, document case management, facilitate trend analysis, and identify serial perpetrators within the Coast Guard and across the services. The Victim Reporting Preference Statement is entered into both the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) and, at the victim's request, the Department of Defense Catch a Serial Offender (CATCH) Program. I therefore request that you ensure that the cases covered under Operation Fouled Anchor be accurately captured in DSAID and that the victims are provided the opportunity to report applicable incidents to the CATCH Program if desired.

I appreciate your ongoing work to seek accountability with respect to the serious failures that occurred – and continue to occur – within the Coast Guard’s handling of reports of sexual misconduct. Please keep me informed of the progress on your investigation and of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

CC:

Admiral Linda L. Fagan
Commandant, United States Coast Guard
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The Honorable Ashish S. Vazirani
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