

CHIP ROY  
21<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, TEXAS  
COMMITTEE ON RULES  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

103 CANNON HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4321  
(202) 225-4236

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4312

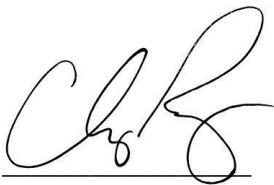
January 8, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin,

I write to request your immediate resignation as Secretary of the Department of Defense (DoD). Your failure to inform the White House, the National Security Council, and Congress of your hospitalization and subsequent inability to fulfill your national security responsibilities as Secretary in a timely manner is indefensible and unacceptable. While you were incapacitated, and Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks was on vacation, American service members came under attack on at least six occasions, and the DoD conducted a strike against a high-level Iranian-backed militia member in Iraq triggering a report to Congress required by the War Powers Resolution.<sup>1</sup>

This alarming chain of events – in addition to the unprecedented politicization of the DoD under your watch and the botched withdrawal from Afghanistan – makes it abundantly clear that you lack the judgment and competence our service members and the American people deserve and are unfit to continue to serve as the Secretary of Defense. Your failed leadership not only puts the American people at risk, but also sets an abhorrent example for the men and women at all levels of our Armed Forces. I look forward to your swift resignation.



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/secretary-defense-lloyd-austin-hospitalized-middle-east-missions-rcna132612>  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/01/05/letter-to-the-speaker-of-the-house-and-president-pro-tempore-of-the-senate-consistent-with-the-war-powers-resolution-public-law-93-148-9/>  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/deputy-learned-defense-secretarys-hospitalization-two-days-taking-duti-rcna132729>