



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

GINA ORTIZ JONES
MAYOR

October 21, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Mullin:

I write to request both departments reconsider their immigration enforcement activities toward military spouses and service members' qualified family members as they legally proceed through the immigration process.

San Antonio hosts Joint Base-San Antonio, the largest and most diverse joint base in the Department of Defense. Our community takes pride in calling ourselves Military City USA given the large Active Duty, Reserve, and Veteran presence in our community, as well as the disproportionately high number of young people from San Antonio that choose military service.

The recent report of a military spouse being apprehended and detained by federal immigration officials in September 2026 while on base at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi is deeply troubling. According to the report, the spouse was seeking to obtain an identification card needed to access healthcare and other family benefits while her soldier spouse was away.

We fear such actions may dampen interest in military service, while introducing unneeded stress during a time of heightened military operations. As Military City USA, we recognize and appreciate the service of everyone courageous enough to support and defend the Constitution, and the family members—irrespective of citizenship—who make that service possible.

I presume that we have the same aim in mind—support the warfighters. To that end, I request that you reconsider the practice of apprehending and detaining service members' spouses and qualified family members as they lawfully seek permanent residence or citizenship and that you give them the strongest preference for approval of that status. These families are among the very best of our communities, and it is only to our benefit to embrace their commitment to our country.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal line and a smaller loop below it.

Gina Ortiz Jones