



LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1300

OCT 13 2023

The Honorable Joni K. Ernst
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst:

I write in response to your letter dated 29 September 2023 concerning the employment of Ms. Ariane Tabatabai, a member of the staff in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Policy.

We have confirmed that Ms. Tabatabai's employment and clearance processes were carried out in accordance with all appropriate laws and policies. The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency has enrolled all Defense Department service members, civilians, and contractors with a security clearance in its continuous vetting program, which is a process that involves regularly reviewing a cleared individual's background to ensure they continue to meet security clearance requirements and may continue to hold positions of trust.

Thank you for your support of the men and women of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rheanne Wirkkala", is positioned above the typed name.

HON Rheanne E. Wirkkala
Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Legislative Affairs