

BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

**BIPARTISAN
PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS**
CHAIRMAN

271 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4276

1717 LANGHORNE-NEWTOWN RD.
SUITE 225
LANGHORNE, PA 19047
(215) 579-8102



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

COMMITTEES

INTELLIGENCE

CHAIRMAN
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA)

WAYS AND MEANS

TAX
HEALTH

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

INTELLIGENCE LIAISON

NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

I write to express intense concern regarding the announcement that the Pentagon is considering suspending support to Scouting America.¹

For over 100 years, Scouting America has been influential in molding young Americans into leaders. Millions of men and women have joined Scouting to learn the values of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance. Now is not the time to be playing ideological games with an organization that has developed some of our nation's finest leaders and war fighters.

Being an Eagle Scout myself and knowing the incredible young men and women in my community who are eager to find opportunities to serve and contribute, this decision will jeopardize the strong pipeline into military and public service. Scouting America's policy change to include women is not one that weakens the organization. I urge you to consider the implications of suspending support to Scouting America and the lasting harm in deterring young men and women who are eager to serve.

I am requesting answers to the following questions by February 17, 2026:

1. What specific policies adopted by Scouting America have led to this determination?
 - a. Does the rationale include the inclusion of young women in the organization?
2. Has Scouting America been notified with appropriate time to address this decision within their organization?
3. How does the Pentagon plan to support and encourage youth leadership organizations that will instill education in civics and values of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance?

¹ [Sean Parnell on X: "STATEMENT: From Day One at the War Department, we have made it very clear: No more DEI at DoW. Zero tolerance. As a result, over the past several months, the Department of War has been reviewing its relationship with Scouting America—formerly known as the Boy Scouts of America." / X](#)

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Fitzpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress