United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2014

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Coburn
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Coburn,

The murders at the Navy Yard last year have demonstrated that we must improve our current security clearance process. Your hearing last year on this subject reinforced the need for action, and the recent report by the Administration further confirmed this fact. On October 30, 2013, we introduced S. 1618, The Enhanced Security Clearance Act of 2013, which addresses gaps in our current security clearance process by instituting random, automated audits of all cleared personnel between their full background investigations.

The gaps between the full-fledged investigations are too long, allowing signs of troubling behavior to go undetected or unreported to federal agencies. We believe this bill will provide immediate improvements to help prevent further tragedies, particularly while the Senate works on broader legislation related to clearances.

Our bill represents a sensible path forward to protect national security and our federal personnel as evidenced by its endorsements from the wide array of organizations. We request that you mark this bill up in Committee as soon as possible so that it can be brought to the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator