the HSA Coalition

April 25, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We disagree on much regarding U.S. involvement abroad, but on one question we are in complete agreement: the United States must never cede authority over the deployment of American forces to a foreign alliance.

Command of American forces is not a committee decision. The Constitution gives the American people, through their elected President, the final word on whether their sons and daughters go to war. That word cannot be outsourced to a vote in Brussels.

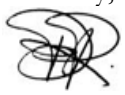
Granting NATO final authority over U.S. troop deployments in Europe would be plainly unconstitutional. Article II makes the President Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. No treaty, no alliance protocol, and no act of Congress can transfer that authority to a multilateral body without amending the Constitution itself. The buck stops at the Resolute Desk, not at a conference table.

It is also strategically reckless. Once foreign capitals know that American troops cannot move without their consent, every deployment becomes a bargaining chip for demands unrelated to the deployment itself. Allies will trade their votes for unrelated concessions. Adversaries will plan around the delays they know our consultations will produce. We will have surrendered the element of timing — the one advantage a superpower cannot afford to give away.

This violates the most basic principle of military command: unity of command. Joint doctrine has held for generations that forces operate under a single commander responsible to a single national authority.

Simply put, American policy must be set in Washington, not negotiated in Brussels.

Sincerely,



Daniel Perrin,
Founder