

The Honorable Krysten Sinema
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sinema,

As veterans, we have fought and bled for our country's democratic values. Over the past few months, however, increasing concerns have emerged surrounding the status of those values and the state of our Democracy—concerns only made worse by your inaction to defend either of them.

As members of your Veterans Advisory Council for several years, we know how supportive you have been to veterans in the past. Yet, despite our continued outreach, you refuse to act on the issues that support our veteran community and protect the very heart and soul of our nation.

While serving, many of us escorted and protected voters in other nations as they exercised their freedom to vote—a foundational freedom in our democracy at home and a freedom that is now in grave danger, including here in Arizona. Coordinated attacks on our freedom to vote in state legislatures across the nation have especially impacted veterans with service-connected disabilities, casting them out of the democracy they risked their lives to defend.

This issue is central to both the veteran community and the entire nation. In order to have the representative democracy that our nation strives for, we must protect voting rights by passing the Freedom to Vote Act. In the face of complete refusal to compromise from the opposing side, this means we must amend or abolish the filibuster, a Jim Crow relic designed to keep power in the hands of the few. We are frustrated with your failure to proceed in good faith and address this issue.

In addition to protecting the freedom to vote, your constituents urgently need you to support the Biden agenda, a whole host of policies that would help us address the great challenges of our time: employment, education, healthcare, and infrastructure. However, just like voting rights, you have become one of the principal obstacles to progress, answering to big donors rather than your own people. We shouldn't have to buy representation from you, and your failure to stand by your people and see their urgent needs is alarming.

Despite running with a commitment to address exorbitant drug prices, you have failed to support prescription medication negotiation, leaving your campaign promises unfulfilled and hanging your constituents out to dry. We pay more for drugs here in the United States than any other developed country, a reality that forces veterans and citizens to decide whether to pay for rent or for life-saving medications—a choice no person should have to make. You stand by while

American companies see dollar signs before human beings, choosing to answer to big donors rather than the working people you're supposed to represent.

These are not the actions of a maverick.

We should have realized this once you showed your true character when refusing to vote to establish a commission to investigate the January 6th riot at the U.S. Capitol.

We do not know who has your ear but it clearly isn't us or your constituents.

As members of your Veterans Advisory Council for years, we're deeply concerned by your failure to acknowledge us or seek our input. Today, we feel as though we are merely given performative titles and used as window dressing for your own image—not as resources to provide counsel on what's best for veterans.

Given your complete disregard for our input and your unwillingness to act on behalf of your constituents' needs, we respectfully resign from your Veterans Advisory Council. We no longer feel you are aligned with our values, and we cannot in good faith continue to serve on your council.

As the originators of this letter, we would wish to offer our fellow veterans on the council the opportunity to add their names to ours in solidarity.

Sincerely,

Sylvia González Adersh, Veteran, U.S. Air Force

Dana Allmond, Veteran, U.S. Army

Terry Araman, Veteran, U.S. Army

David Lucier, Veteran, U.S. Army

Vic Peterson, Veteran, U.S. Air Force