Dear Senator,

The undersigned civil liberties, human rights, and religious organizations would like to express our appreciation for your support for the improved Guantanamo overseas transfer provisions included in the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that just passed the Senate. Approval of these provisions represents Congress’ first legislation passed to facilitate the ultimate closure of the facility. We particularly appreciate the leadership of Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin for sponsoring these provisions and shepherding them to passage.

As detention operations at Guantanamo enter their thirteenth year, we appreciate the renewed commitment of the president and the support of Congress for taking new steps to close the Guantanamo prison. Though work remains even after these provisions in particular become law, we are confident that these are important steps toward closing the Guantanamo prison and toward ending the broader practice of indefinite detention without charge or trial.

We are grateful for your support of the new overseas transfer provisions in the FY14 NDAA and look forward to continued engagement with your office on these important issues.

December 20, 2013
Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
Amnesty International USA
Appeal for Justice
Arab American Institute
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for International Policy
Center for National Security Studies
Center for Victims of Torture
The Constitution Project
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Defending Dissent Foundation
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
International Justice Network
Just Foreign Policy
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
National Religious Campaign Against Torture
National Security Network
Open Society Policy Center
Win Without War