

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2025

The Honorable John Phelan  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Phelan,

We write to inquire about the Navy's handling of the tragic death of Seaman Angelina P. Resendiz. While we acknowledge the Navy's engagement with congressional offices to date, ongoing questions and concerns related to the period of her disappearance, the circumstances leading to her death, and the Navy's policies and procedures throughout, demand answers. We urge the swift and thorough completion of the criminal investigation, and an associated administrative investigation as the service examines the circumstances of Seaman Resendiz's death.

In response to our engagement, along with that of broader congressional colleagues, the Navy has provided some initial information related to this tragic case. As the Navy continues its investigation, it is critical that you provide Congress with significantly greater detail about the circumstances of Seaman Resendiz's disappearance and death, including a more fulsome accounting of the Navy's engagement with Seaman Resendiz's loved ones and fellow sailors who had raised concerns about her well-being. This information is vital in helping to fully understand the response from the Navy, as well as state and local law enforcement.

Additionally, we urge you to provide clarity around the actions taken by the Navy upon first learning of Seaman Resendiz's absence, and Navy leaders' adherence to a range of protocols and procedures, including those outlined in MILPERSMAN 1600-040, which governs absent enlisted and officer personnel. Furthermore, we ask for detail on what investigative steps were taken, and when, by the Navy and its Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), as well as the interactions with local and Virginia State Police. Finally, we reiterate our concern over the public accounts from the family about the grief and anger caused by the condition of Seaman Resendiz's remains upon arrival in Texas. We have serious questions as to what policies and procedures govern dignified transfer of remains after an investigation, and whether those were followed in this instance.

As you must surely understand, your timely response on these matters is especially important to community advocates, Seaman Resendiz's loved ones, the broader Navy family, and Members of Congress. As such, we request a briefing from relevant Navy and installation leadership by August 14, 2025, in order to further address a range of questions and concerns about the case – from the initial reports of Seaman Resendiz's missing status, up to and including the return of her remains to Texas.

Sincerely,



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TIM KAINE  
United States Senator



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MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator