

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
MARYLAND

[www.cardin.senate.gov](http://www.cardin.senate.gov)

509 HART BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2004  
(202) 224-4524

TOWER 1, SUITE 1710  
100 S. CHARLES STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD 21201  
(410) 962-4436

## United States Senate

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February 21, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

President Trump has recently renewed his orders to have a military parade showcasing the United States Military Power. In past statements, he said he would like to parade our forces and military hardware down Pennsylvania Avenue as a show of force. It has been recently confirmed by the Department of Defense, that the President has officially requested that the DoD plan and execute a military parade and they are actively looking at appropriate dates.

We have the best armed forces in the world. We don't need to flex our muscles to showcase our military hardware. Our brave military men and women flex their might around the world every day on behalf of our nation. This is why I will be introducing legislation that prohibits funds to go towards a military parade requested by the President. I offered a similar amendment to last year's budget resolution, but it was not included in the final version.

Not only will this bill prevent grand-scale parades as a "show of force," but it would also limit the impact of national military parades will have on military readiness. Having seen multiple training deaths, as well as ship collisions in the past year. Preventing such a parade would save desperately needed operations and maintenance resources used to fight two wars abroad. It also will ensure that our military personnel that volunteer to sacrifice for our nation will be able to spend their limited free time with loved ones in their communities that they live in, work in, and not in travel needlessly to our nation's capital to appease the President.

We all honor the brave men and women of our military, but there are much more effective ways of achieving this than wasting millions of dollars we could better spend on our troops. We will be submitting the following legislation by the end of this week.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator