



June 10, 2022

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi:

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance (SWACCA) to advise you of our strong support for legislation you intend to introduce entitled the "Base Access Privileges Improvement Act." We appreciate your willingness to work with us in the development of this important legislation.

SWACCA is a national association representing construction company owners employing tens of thousands of laborers, drywall finishers, plasterers, and carpenters who perform billions of dollars of framing, drywall, ceiling, and other interior systems work annually throughout the United States. Our members also work in a variety of federally-regulated critical infrastructure sectors and industries, including aviation, water and power, and federal civilian and military facilities and installations. Due to the nature of our work, it is not uncommon for both our members and their workers to undergo a background check and obtain a credential to access each federally-regulated facility at which they perform work under a contract. These mandatory background checks and credentials are most often "single-use" in that they last for only a limited duration and cannot be used to access similarly situated facilities, even within the same sector or industry. The problem is even more acute at facilities governed by the Department of Defense (DOD), where a lack of interoperable credentials and access standards means individual installation commanders may have very different criteria when it comes to granting access to contractors and their employees.

The legislation you have proposed will help address the lack of consistent access standards at DOD facilities, and do so in a manner that enhances security and facilitates the efficient flow of goods and services at military installations across the country. Specifically, the bill directs DOD to maintain access standards that apply to all military installations in the U.S.,

Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance
3222 N Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
Phone: 202-935-6997
Email: info@swacca.org
Website: www.swacca.org

Robert Klugh | President
Martin Bros.
Gardena, California
Western Region

Gregg Brady | Vice President
Brady Company / Central CA
Castroville, California
Western Region

Shawn Burnum | Treasurer
Performance Contracting Inc.
Lenexa, Kansas
Central Region

John Strawser | Secretary
Valley Interior Systems Inc.
Cincinnati, Ohio
At-Large Director

Scott Casabona | Director
Sloan and Company
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey
Immediate Past President

Albert Carrillo | Director
Western Wall & Ceiling
Contractors Association
Orange, California
Regional Affiliate Executive

Geoff Furtaw | Director
Ceilings, Inc.
Norristown, Pennsylvania
Eastern Region

David Giorgi | Director
Giorgi Interior Systems, Inc.
Bedford Heights, Ohio
Eastern Region

Ron Johnson | Director
Berg Group
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Central Region

Greg Knutson | Director
GK Knutson
Bellingham, Washington
At-Large Director

Neil O'Connor | Director
Western Partitions Inc.
Wilsonville, Oregon
Western Region

Clark Townsend | Director
OCP Contractors
Columbus, Ohio
Central Region

Daniel Wies | Director
Wies Drywall and Construction
Corp.
St. Louis, Missouri
Central Region



provides screening standards that are appropriate for the type of installation involved, and includes standardized protocols for determining the fitness of an individual to enter an installation and for verifying their identity. Your bill encourages installation commanders to issue credentials that are valid for up to two years. It also requires that for purposes of granting expedited, unescorted access to military facilities the DOD take into account whether an individual holds a valid federally recognized access credential—such as a TWIC or SIDA badge—which requires equivalent or more rigorous vetting than a DOD access credential. These provisions combine to ensure that the “Base Access Privileges Improvement Act” not only reduces the burden DOD’s current installation access control standards place on contractors and their workers, but also makes the system more coherent, secure, and efficient across military installations.

Thank you again for your leadership on this legislation. We look forward to working with you to see it swiftly enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Klugh", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Klugh
President

**Signatory Wall and
Ceiling Contractors Alliance**
3222 N Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
Phone: 202-935-6997
Email: info@swacca.org
Website: www.swacca.org