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Subject: Re: Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Hearings on C-Span
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The subcommittee report recommending commanders keep their authority in sexual assault cases makes a mockery of justice. Clearly, the hearings and conclusions of the Role of the Commander subcommittee served the status quo of the culture of rape in the military, rather than serving the victims of such sexual assaults.

The ONLY purpose of the subcommittee should have been to respond to the corruption in the military that creates a hostile environment for victims of sexual assault. By failing to recommend that commanders, as well as chain-of-command actors, be denied authority to respond to rape victims, the subcommittee proved itself to be a handmaiden to the corrupt, hierarchical system in the military that adds insult to injury for victims of rape and sexual assault when they report.

Women in the military do not deserve to be raped, then denied justice by their chain-of-command, then abandoned by the subcommittee that was supposed to support their interests, as opposed to supporting the very system that failed them. Shame on the subcommittee!

Women in the military who have been sexually assaulted must be given the power to report outside the military establishment, where their attackers will face an investigation not corrupted by a "boys-will-be-boys," "she's a threat to the boys' club" mentality. Only the civilian legal system is in a position to make those women feel safe.

--Laurie Menard