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April 28, 2020

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On April 17, 2020 you announced you would deliver a commencement speech at the United States Military Academy at West Point on June 13, 2020. I urge you to reconsider that decision.

Closed due to COVID-19 since March, your presence at a graduation ceremony means that 1,000 seniors must return to campus. Beyond family and visitors, hundreds of staff will have to assemble, including but in no way limited to health care professionals, officers, administrators, cooks, janitors, cleaners, food service workers and even the band.

Every senior will have to be tested before arrival and, if negative, they will be sent to campus and then quarantined for two weeks.

With naval personnel already infected on the USS Theodore Roosevelt and the USS Kidd, the benefit of any pomp and circumstance at a West Point commencement is disproportionately outweighed by the very real risk to the lives and health of the students and human resources who must assemble.

I respectfully urge that you cancel the commencement and thank you for your consideration respecting this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Lavine
Member of Assembly