**REQUEST TO CANCEL IN-PERSON GRADUATION CEREMONY AT WEST POINT**

**TELEPHONE SCRIPT**

**Call the Congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senator or Representative or go to [senate.gov](http://senate.gov/) / <https://www.house.gov/> and in upper left hand corner click on Senators/Representatives.  Drop down menu to Contact.  Choose a state or scroll down for a DC phone number and add to your address book. When you reach an aide or answerphone, leave the following message:**

Hello, I am …. from …. I’m glad to be speaking to you in person

OR

I’m glad to have the opportunity to speak with you. Please do transmit this message to my Senator/Representative

I feel great concern for the 1000 West Point cadets who will have to return to New York for a Commencement Ceremony whose date (June 13th) and place (the Academy) have been established following President Trump’s decision to give the graduation speech “live”.

Considering the risk of Coronavirus propagation, I very much hope that you, our representative, will talk to President Trump about the importance of canceling the June 13th engagement.

I hope you will transmit this suggestion to President Trump and your colleagues. Thank you very much.

Please let me know what you think.

Email Script:

Subject: Cancellation of June 13 Presidential Speech at West Point

Dear Senator/Representative/Delegate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

My name is [your name] from [name of home state/home town/territory] and I’m one of your constituents. I’m writing about the worrisome decision of President Trump to speak, in person, at the West Point graduation ceremony on June 13. Some 1000 young graduating cadets may have to return to New York from wherever they are and the Academy, (which started online learning on March 19, and which declared a public health emergency later than month) will have to hold the ceremony “live”. The Academy is one hour from New York City the hottest of Covid19 hot spots.

Think of the travel involved and the families and friends accompanying the cadets. Think about the threat of nationwide propagation.

We cannot ignore the riskiness of the President’s decision. Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy said the Army would provide “adequate protection for our Force, Cadets and Families”. What does this include? How. We now know the volatilty of the virus; it answers to no ukase.

We need across the board partnerships, not politics, we need the strength of unity.

I very much hope that you, our representative, will talk to President Trump about the importance of canceling the in-person June 13 West Point speaking engagement.

Thank you for representing us in Congress. Thank you for listening to my views on this important issue and for understanding (and hopefully sharing) my dismay.

I look forward to hearing from you and wish you well,