

DANNY DAVIS
7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2159 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5006
(202) 225-5641 (FAX)



CHICAGO OFFICE:

2813-15 W 5TH AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60612
(773) 533-7520
(844) 274-0426 (FAX)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RANKING MEMBER:
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER:
HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

**Testimony of Congressman Danny K. Davis
Before the House Armed Services Committee
Member Day Hearing on the National Defense Authorization Act of 2025
April 11, 2024**

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to present my policy and programmatic priorities for consideration for inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2025. As the Committee begins its works in a bipartisan fashion to advances an annual reauthorization bill that will help strengthen the nation's security and enhance the quality of life of our dedicated servicemembers and officers, I write to respectfully request your consideration of three defense related policy recommendations that if enacted can potentially have a net positive impact on military families in my congressional district as well as throughout the country.

Specifically, I want to highlight the need for modernizing the Department of Defense's Adoption Reimbursement Program, as authorized under Title 10 U.S. Code § 1052. As an addendum to my statement for the record, I am including legislative language that amends the program's current statutory authority by increasing the maximum funding levels members of the armed forces are permitted to receive to assist with adoption related expenses, authorizing program eligibility for military families that pursue guardianship as means of providing permanency for a child, and providing the Secretary of Defense discretionary authority to offer military families monetary assistance in advance of an adoption or guardianship or as a reimbursement for associated expenses incurred.

Given the impact these proposed modifications to DOD's Adoption Assistance Program will have on thousands of military personnel and their loved ones looking to grow their families, it is my sincere hope that the Committee will fully consider my proposed reforms for inclusion in **Title V- Military Personnel Policy, Subtitle I – Family Programs, Childcare, and Dependent Education of the NDAA FY25.** (See addendum for legislative text)

Additionally, I would like to commend the Committee for its recent efforts to highlight the importance of continual support for the Department's Advanced Trauma and Public Health Direct Training Services Program. As you may be aware, this specialized training course equips servicemembers in both the Army and Air National Guards with state-of-the-art knowledge and hands-on skills required to provide advanced acute management for trauma patients and prevention, intervention, and treatment for infectious disease outbreaks. This program, which is conducted in collaboration with Rush, University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois in my congressional district, focuses on the right training at the right time, and is aligned with Army, Air Force, and National Guard Bureau medical training requirements; thereby preparing these military members for a combat environment or response in the event of a domestic or international incident.

For the NDAA FY25, I respectfully request the Committee's consideration of the following trauma training related language for inclusion in **Title V – Military Personnel Policy, Subtitle H- Member Training and Transition:**

Sec._____ Advanced Trauma and Public Health Direct Training Services

The Committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to continue state-of-the-art trauma, critical care, behavioral health, public health, and other ancillary direct medical training utilizing academic medical centers, which provide the aforementioned disciplines for Air National Guard and Army National Guard Medical and Non-Medical Personnel and State Partnership Program/Global Health Engagement international partners to minimize civilian-military and international coalition medical operational gaps in the event of a catastrophic incident. These preparedness programs shall be delivered through direct training services, to include advanced trauma, public health, and combat lifesaver curriculums focusing on critical life-saving procedures, epidemiology of public health diseases, prevention and treatment, mass casualty triage, and psychological health.

Lastly, I applaud the Committee's ongoing efforts to emphasize the significance of modernizing the nation's organic industrial base to better support the Department of Defense. Since 2018, MxD, a Chicago-based commercial enterprise and part of the National Digital Manufacturing and Cybersecurity Institute, which is authorized and funded under the Army's Operation and Maintenance, Army Operating Forces account, has increasingly supported modernization efforts at multiple DOD facilities and looks to accelerate in the near future the rates of digital manufacturing and workforce transformations. This Digital Modernization Accelerator Program will support existing and future requests from Army Material Command and their subordinate commands, to implement digital, cybersecurity, and work force development capabilities at all organic industrial base installations.

In furtherance of these developments, I'd like to request the Committee's consideration of including the following supportive language in the FY25 NDAA, under **Title VIII – Acquisition Policy, Acquisition Management and Related Matters, Subtitle E Industrial Base Matters:**

Sec._____ Secure Digital Modernization Implementation –

The Committee recognizes the need to accelerate and modernize the Army's organic industrial base. Our nation's arsenals and depots provide critical materiel and sustainment support to warfighters around the world by manufacturing, repairing, maintaining, and deposing of essential equipment and munitions, which ensures the readiness and superiority of the Army. The Committee appreciates the assessments the Department's designated digital manufacturing institute has provided to date.

Therefore, the Committee recommends a total increase of \$19,500,000 for Army Operation and Maintenance to support the nation's digital manufacturing institute. The institute's digital modernization accelerator program will continue to scale enterprise-level modernization across the Army's organic industrial base.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to submit for the record my top three policy and programmatic priorities for the FY25 NDAA, and I look forward to working with you as the Committee advances important must pass national security related legislation.