

Amendment to H.R. 2810 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018

Offered by: Martha McSally

[For new Directive Report Language, please use the following:]

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 2810, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Gender Double Standards

The committee embraces the service of all qualified service members and believes that a single standard should apply to all service men and women to the degree practicable. While the committee supports the continuance of gender and age specific physical fitness evaluations, the committee is concerned that female service members are sometimes perceived to be held to different standards than their male service members. The committee is particularly concerned with the differences in basic training, such as the differing haircut standards for men and women in all services' initial entry training. The committee also believes that gender neutral physical standards should be adopted through the services for each occupation. Such standards would ease the gender neutral assignment policies to all duty positions, which should be the norm.

To begin the process of eliminating the perception of double standards as much as possible, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with service secretaries and the chiefs of the armed services, to review instances where men and women are held to different standards across the services and brief the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2018 on any such differences the Secretary recommends retaining. Such a briefing should include discussion on appearance standards; a gender neutral assignment policy; gender neutral training and occupational standards, and any separate gender training.