

**H.R. 8070—SERVICEMEMBER QUALITY OF  
LIFE IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY  
PERSONNEL**

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## **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

##### **SUBTITLE D—OTHER MATTERS**

#### **Section 332—Expanded License Reciprocity for Department of Defense Veterinarians**

This section would remove statutory restrictions concerning declared emergencies and disasters currently placed on the reciprocal practice of the Department of Defense veterinarians when performing authorized duties.

### **TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS**

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

##### **SUBTITLE A—ACTIVE FORCES**

#### **Section 401—End Strengths for Active Forces**

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Active Duty personnel of the Armed Forces as of September 30, 2025:

	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>		<b>Change from</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>FY 2025 Request</b>	<b>FY 2024 Authorized</b>
Army	445,000	442,300	442,300	0	-2,700
Navy	337,800	332,300	332,300	0	-5,500
USMC	172,300	172,300	172,300	0	0
Air Force	320,000	320,000	320,000	0	0
Space Force	9,400	9,800	9,800	0	400
DOD Total	1,284,500	1,276,700	1,276,700	0	-7,800

## SUBTITLE B—RESERVE FORCES

### Section 411—End Strengths for Selected Reserve

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel, including the end strength for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves, as of September 30, 2025:

	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>		<b>Change from</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>FY 2025 Request</b>	<b>FY 2024 Authorized</b>
Army National Guard	325,000	325,000	325,000	0	0
Army Reserve	174,800	175,800	175,800	0	1,000
Navy Reserve	57,200	57,700	57,700	0	500
Marine Corps Reserve	32,000	32,500	32,500	0	500
Air National Guard	105,000	107,700	107,700	0	2,700
Air Force Reserve	69,600	67,000	67,000	0	-2,600
DOD Total	763,600	765,700	765,700	0	2,100
Coast Guard Reserve	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0

### Section 412—End Strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in Support of the Reserves

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves as of September 30, 2025:

	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>		<b>Change from</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>FY 2025 Request</b>	<b>FY 2024 Authorized</b>
Army National Guard	30,845	30,845	30,845	0	0
Army Reserve	16,511	16,511	16,511	0	0
Navy Reserve	10,327	10,123	10,123	0	-204
Marine Corps Reserve	2,355	2,400	2,400	0	45
Air National Guard	25,333	25,736	25,736	0	403
Air Force Reserve	6,003	6,311	6,311	0	308
DOD Total	91,374	91,926	91,926	0	552

### Section 413—End Strengths for Military Technicians (Dual Status)

This section would authorize the following end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2025:

	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>		<b>Change from</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>FY 2025 Request</b>	<b>FY 2024 Authorized</b>
Army National Guard	22,294	22,294	22,294	0	0
Army Reserve	7,990	6,492	6,492	0	-1,498
Air National Guard	10,994	10,744	10,744	0	-250
Air Force Reserve	6,882	6,697	6,697	0	-185
<b>DOD Total</b>	<b>48,160</b>	<b>46,227</b>	<b>46,227</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,933</b>

### Section 414—Maximum Number of Reserve Personnel Authorized To Be on Active Duty for Operational Support

This section would authorize, as required by section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, the maximum number of Reserve Component personnel who may be on Active Duty or full-time National Guard duty during fiscal year 2025 to provide operational support. The personnel authorized here do not count against the end strengths authorized by section 401 or section 412 of this Act unless the duration on Active Duty exceeds the limitations in section 115(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>		<b>Change from</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>FY 2025 Request</b>	<b>FY 2024 Authorized</b>
Army National Guard	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0
Army Reserve	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Navy Reserve	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Marine Corps Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0
Air National Guard	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	0
Air Force Reserve	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0
<b>DOD Total</b>	<b>69,200</b>	<b>69,200</b>	<b>69,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

### SUBTITLE A—OFFICER POLICY

#### Section 501—Authority to Exclude Additional Positions from Limitations on the Number of General Officers and Flag Officers on Active Duty

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to designate certain general and flag officer positions for exclusion from section 525(a) of title 10, United States Code.

#### Section 502—Pilot Program on Peer and Subordinate Evaluations of Certain Officers

This section would direct certain military services to initiate a 5-year pilot program in which the selection boards for Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel commands are required to review and take into consideration assessments provided by the officer's peers and subordinates as part of the selection process.

### SUBTITLE B—RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT

#### Section 511—Grades of Certain Chiefs of Reserve Components

This section would authorize the Chief of each military service Reserve Component to be in the grade of three-star officer.

### SUBTITLE C—GENERAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES AND MILITARY RECORDS

#### Section 522—Authority to Designate Certain Separated Members of the Air Force as Honorary Separated Members of the Space Force

This section would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to designate certain separated members of the Air Force as Legacy Guardians.

### SUBTITLE D—RECRUITMENT

#### Section 532—Modernization of Recruitment for the Army

This section would require the Secretary of the Army to modernize the Army recruiting force by creating a professional recruiting military occupational specialty for enlisted and warrant officers.

### SUBTITLE E—MEMBER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

#### Section 541—Expansion of International Engagement Authorities for Service Academies

This section would authorize an increase in the number of eligible international students at a military service academy.

#### Section 542—Reduction to Minimum Number of Participating Students Required to Establish or Maintain a Unit of JROTC

This section would lower the threshold of minimum students required for enrollment in a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

#### Section 543—Number of Foreign Military Medical Students Who May Attend Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Under an Exchange Program

This section would amend section 2114(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code to increase the number of foreign students participating in military medical exchange programs from 40 to 50 persons at any one time.

#### Section 544—Professional Military Education: Technical Correction to Definitions

This section would amend section 2151(3) of title 10, United States Code by striking National Defense Intelligence College and replacing it with National Intelligence University.

#### Section 545—Alternative Service Obligation for a Cadet or Midshipman Who Becomes a Professional Athlete

This section would authorize service academy graduates to play professional sports and fulfill their service obligation through reserve duty in a recruiting position.

#### Section 546—Naval Postgraduate School: Function

This section would expand the Naval Postgraduate School's mission by including the function; applied design and innovation.

#### Section 547—Ensuring Access to Certain Higher Education Benefits

This section would require a data sharing agreement between the Department of Defense and the Department of Education to ensure servicemembers have access to the public service loan forgiveness program.

### SUBTITLE F—MILITARY JUSTICE

## Section 551—Authority of Special Trial Counsel with Respect to Certain Offenses Occurring before Effective Date of Military Justice Reforms

This section would expand the grant of discretionary authority to special trial counsel to exercise authority over pre-December 28, 2023, covered, known, and related offenses that was enacted in section 531 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

## Section 552—Detailing of Appellate Defense Counsel

This section would assign an appellate counsel to review a case only when a case is docketed before a Court of Criminal Appeals or an accused asks for review by an appellate defense counsel to inform a decision as to whether to file an appeal-as-of-right.

## Section 553—Modification to Offense of Aiding the Enemy Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

This section would amend the offense of aiding the enemy, article 103b(2), under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

## Section 554—Modification of Timeline for Potential Implementation of Study on Unanimous Court-Martial Verdicts

This section would require the Department of Defense to implement unanimous court-martial verdicts in calendar year 2025 instead of 2027.

## Section 555—Expanded Command Notifications to Victims of Domestic Violence

This section requires a command to periodically notify the victim of a domestic violence incident about the status of their case whether it is an administrative action or non-judicial punishment.

## Section 556—Prohibiting the Broadcast and Distribution of Digitally Manipulated Intimate Images

This section would require the Joint Service Committee on Military Justice to develop recommendations for modifying the offense of indecent viewing, visual recording, or broadcasting under section 920c of title 10, United States Code (article 120c of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) to clarify its applicability to the broadcasting and distribution of digitally manipulated intimate images.

## Section 557—Treatment of Certain Records of Criminal Investigations

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement uniform guidance for the modification of titling and indexing systems to ensure that a record identifying a member or former member of the Armed Forces as the subject of a criminal investigation is removed from such system if that member or former member is cleared of wrongdoing as described.

#### SUBTITLE G—MEMBER TRANSITION

##### Section 561—Transition Assistance Program: Presentation in Preseparation Counseling to Promote Benefits Available to Veterans

This section would amend section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, to allow Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to participate in the Transition Assistance Program in order to present information on how VSOs may assist a member in filing a claim for benefits.

#### SUBTITLE H—FAMILY PROGRAMS, CHILD CARE, AND DEPENDENT EDUCATION

##### Section 571—Staffing of Department of Defense Education Activity Schools to Maintain Maximum Student-To-Teacher Ratios

This section would extend the current student-to-teacher ratio requirements through the 2029-2030 academic year.

##### Section 572—Certain Assistance to Local Educational Agencies that Benefit Dependents of Military and Civilian Personnel

This section would authorize \$50.0 million for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students, and \$20.0 million for local educational agencies eligible to receive a payment for children with severe disabilities.

##### Section 573—Verification of Reporting of Eligible Federally Connected Children for Purposes of Federal Impact Aid Programs

This section would require the commanders of each military installation to annually submit written certification to their respective military departments verifying whether they have confirmed the information contained in all Impact Aid source check forms.

#### SUBTITLE I—DECORATIONS AND AWARDS AND OTHER PERSONNEL MATTERS, REPORTS, AND BRIEFINGS

##### Section 581—Provision of Information regarding Federal Service to Certain Persons Determined Not Qualified to Enlist in Certain Armed Forces

This section would require the Secretary of a military department to provide information concerning Federal service to those not qualified to enlist in the military services.

## TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### SUBTITLE A—BASIC PAY, RETIRED PAY, AND LEAVE

##### Section 601—Policy on Postpartum Physical Fitness Tests and Body Composition Assessments

This section would amend section 701(k) of title 10, United States Code, to include pregnancy as a waivable condition for participation in the Physical Fitness Tests and Body Composition Assessments.

#### SUBTITLE B—BONUS AND INCENTIVE PAYS

##### Section 611—Incentive Pay: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Duty

This section would make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty.

##### Section 612—One-Year Extension of Certain Expiring Bonus and Special Pay Authorities

This section would extend, through December 31, 2025, income replacement payments for Reserve Component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for Active Duty service, two critical recruitment and retention incentive programs for Reserve Component health care professionals, accession and retention incentives for nuclear-qualified officers, and the consolidated special and incentive pay authorities.

#### SUBTITLE C—ALLOWANCES

##### Section 621—Basic Allowance for Housing: Pilot Program to Outsource Rate Calculation

This section would establish a pilot program to evaluate the method by which the Basic Allowance for Housing rate is calculated.

#### SUBTITLE D—FAMILY AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

## Section 631—Expansion of Eligibility for Certain Benefits that Arise from the Death of a Member of the Armed Forces

This section would authorize the payment of a death gratuity and casualty assistance for ROTC cadets who die as the result of a sanctioned training event.

## Section 632—Payment Instead of Reimbursement for the Transportation of Certain Remains to Two Locations if the Second Location is a National Cemetery

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to pay, instead of reimburse, for the dignified transportation of remains to a second location if the second location is a national cemetery.

## Section 633—Information Regarding Paternal Engagement on Website of Military OneSource

This section would require the Military OneSource website to include information regarding paternal engagement programs.

## Section 634—Military OneSource for a Remarried Surviving Spouse of a Deceased Member of the Armed Forces: Eligibility; Information

This section would expand eligibility of the Military OneSource program to remarried surviving spouses of deceased members of the Armed Forces. Further, it would require the Secretary of Defense to publish and maintain casualty assistance information on the Military OneSource website for these surviving spouses.

## SUBTITLE E—OTHER BENEFITS, REPORTS, AND BRIEFINGS

### Section 641—Promotion of Tax Preparation Assistance Programs

This provision would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that servicemembers are aware of various tax preparation assistance programs.

## TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### SUBTITLE A—TRICARE AND OTHER HEALTH BENEFITS

### Section 701—TRICARE Dental Plan for the Selected Reserve

This section would waive fees and copays on the TRICARE Dental Program for all members of the Selected Reserve.

## Section 702—Extension of Effective Date Regarding Certain Improvements to the TRICARE Dental Program

This section would modify section 1076a of title 10, United States Code, to extend the implementation date of the TRICARE Dental Program from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027.

## Section 703—Licensure Requirement for Certain Health Care Professionals Providing Certain Examinations to Members of the Reserve Components

This section would expand license portability for health care providers who provide medical services under the Reserve Health Readiness Program.

## Section 704—Reimbursements Under the TRICARE Program to Cancer and Children's Hospitals for Outpatient Care of Beneficiaries

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to consider the adequacy of the TRICARE network and availability of specialized health care services when evaluating an application for a general temporary military contingency payment adjustment.

## Section 705—Pilot Program to Treat Pregnancy as a Qualifying Event for Enrollment in TRICARE Select

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a 5-year pilot program that expands a Qualifying Life Event under the TRICARE program to include pregnancy, allowing dependents of servicemembers to switch TRICARE plans at pregnancy.

## Section 706—Pilot Program to Prevent Perinatal Mental Health Conditions in Pregnant and Postpartum Members of the Armed Forces and Covered Beneficiaries

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to implement a perinatal mental health prevention pilot program for pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and covered beneficiaries.

## SUBTITLE B—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

## Section 712—Mandatory Training on Health Effects of Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

This section would require the Department of Defense to provide training to medical providers on the health effects of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Section 713—Treatments for Acute Radiation Syndrome Incurred by Overseas  
Personnel: Procurement; Pre-positioning

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a program to develop requirements for the procurement and pre-positioning of FDA-approved countermeasures to treat acute radiation syndrome and thermal burns for use by overseas military personnel.

Section 714—Partnerships with Civilian Organizations for Arthroscopic Surgical  
Training

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish partnerships with public, private, and non-profit entities in order to provide short-term arthroscopic surgery training to Department of Defense physicians.

SUBTITLE C—STUDIES, BRIEFINGS, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Section 721—Blast Pressure Safety and Brain Health

This section would make improvements to the Warfighter Brain Health Initiative by amending section 735 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to further specify the identification and dissemination of blast pressure safety thresholds, establish blast overpressure logs, and submit required reports on brain injuries.

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND  
MANAGEMENT

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE B—OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT  
MATTERS

Section 915—Codification of Additional Staff Corps of the Navy

This section would amend section 8090 of title 10 United States Code by adding the Supply Corps, Civil Engineer Corps, Nurse Corps, and the Medical Service Corps.

TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

#### Section 1101—Extension of Authority for Noncompetitive Appointments of Military Spouses by Federal Agencies

This section would extend the authority for noncompetitive appointments of military spouses by Federal agencies until December 31, 2033, and require the Department of Defense to submit a yearly report on the use of this authority.

#### Section 1102—Extension of Living Quarters Allowance to Civilian DOD Employees Stationed in Guam

This section would allow the Secretary of Defense to provide a living quarters allowance to all Department of Defense civilian employees stationed in Guam.

#### Section 1103—One-Year Extension of Authority to Waive Annual Limitation on Premium Pay and Aggregate Limitation on Pay for Federal Civilian Employees Working Overseas

This section would provide the head of a Federal executive agency with the authority to waive the limitations on the amount of premium pay that may be paid to a Federal civilian employee while the employee performs work in an overseas location in direct support of, or directly related to, a military operation, including a contingency operation, or an operation in response to a national emergency declared by the President.

#### Section 1104—One-Year Extension of Temporary Authority to Grant Allowances, Benefits, and Gratuities to Civilian Personnel on Official Duty in a Combat Zone

This section would extend through fiscal year 2026 the discretionary authority of the head of an agency to provide to an individual employed by, or assigned or detailed to, such agency, allowances, benefits, and gratuities comparable to those provided by the Secretary of State to members of the Foreign Service to individuals on official duty in a combat zone.

#### Section 1106—Waiver of Limitation on Appointment of Recently Retired Members of Armed Forces to DOD Competitive Service Positions

This section would waive the 180-day limitation on appointment of recently retired members of the Armed Forces to the Department of Defense competitive service positions.

## TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

### LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

## SUBTITLE C—OTHER MATTERS

### Section 1421—Extension of Authorities for Funding and Management of Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois

This section would extend the authorities for funding and management of joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility demonstration fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois until September 30, 2025.

### Section 1422—Eligibility of Space Force Officers for Membership on Armed Forces Retirement Home Advisory Council

This section would amend section 1502 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 401) to reflect the addition of the Space Force as one of the Armed Forces by adding the branch’s senior enlisted advisor and a representative from its chief of personnel as possible members of the AFRH Advisory Council.

### Section 1423—Authorization of Appropriations for Armed Forces Retirement Home

This section would authorize appropriations for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

## **DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORIZATIONS AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE XXXV—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS**

## SUBTITLE D—OTHER MATTERS

### Section 3534—Policies Regarding Training of Certain Veterans in the State Maritime Academies

This section would authorize an honorably discharged veteran who holds a bachelor's degree to enroll in a State maritime academy and complete a merchant marine officer preparation program approved by the Secretary of Transportation and complete the requirements for the issuance of a license in less than 3 years.

# **BILL LANGUAGE**

1 **SEC. 332 [Log 80489]. EXPANDED LICENSE RECIPROCITY**  
2 **FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE VETERINAR-**  
3 **IANA.**

4 Section 1060c of title 10, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**in**  
7 **emergencies**”;

8 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “for the pur-  
9 poses described in subsection (c)”;

10 (3) by striking subsection (c).

1                   **Subtitle A—Active Forces**

2   **SEC. 401 [log80220]. END STRENGTHS FOR ACTIVE FORCES.**

3           The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for active  
4 duty personnel as of September 30, 2025, as follows:

5                   (1) The Army, 442,300.

6                   (2) The Navy, 332,300.

7                   (3) The Marine Corps, 172,300.

8                   (4) The Air Force, 320,000.

9                   (5) The Space Force, 9,800.

## 1           **Subtitle B—Reserve Forces**

### 2   **SEC. 411 [log80221]. END STRENGTHS FOR SELECTED RE-** 3           **SERVE.**

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Armed Forces are authorized  
5 strengths for Selected Reserve personnel of the reserve  
6 components as of September 30, 2025, as follows:

7               (1) The Army National Guard of the United  
8 States, 325,000.

9               (2) The Army Reserve, 175,800.

10              (3) The Navy Reserve, 57,700.

11              (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 32,500.

12              (5) The Air National Guard of the United  
13 States, 107,700.

14              (6) The Air Force Reserve, 67,000.

15              (7) The Coast Guard Reserve, 7,000.

16           (b) END STRENGTH REDUCTIONS.—The end  
17 strengths prescribed by subsection (a) for the Selected Re-  
18 serve of any reserve component shall be proportionately  
19 reduced by—

20               (1) the total authorized strength of units orga-  
21 nized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of  
22 such component which are on active duty (other  
23 than for training) at the end of the fiscal year; and

24               (2) the total number of individual members not  
25 in units organized to serve as units of the Selected

1 Reserve of such component who are on active duty  
2 (other than for training or for unsatisfactory partici-  
3 pation in training) without their consent at the end  
4 of the fiscal year.

5 (c) END STRENGTH INCREASES.—Whenever units or  
6 individual members of the Selected Reserve of any reserve  
7 component are released from active duty during any fiscal  
8 year, the end strength prescribed for such fiscal year for  
9 the Selected Reserve of such reserve component shall be  
10 increased proportionately by the total authorized strengths  
11 of such units and by the total number of such individual  
12 members.

1 **SEC. 412 [log80223]. END STRENGTHS FOR RESERVES ON**  
2 **ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE RE-**  
3 **SERVES.**

4 Within the end strengths prescribed in section  
5 411(a), the reserve components of the Armed Forces are  
6 authorized, as of September 30, 2025, the following num-  
7 ber of Reserves to be serving on full-time active duty or  
8 full-time duty, in the case of members of the National  
9 Guard, for the purpose of organizing, administering, re-  
10 cruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components:

11 (1) The Army National Guard of the United  
12 States, 30,845.

13 (2) The Army Reserve, 16,511.

14 (3) The Navy Reserve, 10,132.

15 (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 2,400.

16 (5) The Air National Guard of the United  
17 States, 25,736.

18 (6) The Air Force Reserve, 6,311.

1 **SEC. 413 [log80224]. END STRENGTHS FOR MILITARY TECH-**  
2 **NICIANS (DUAL STATUS).**

3 The minimum number of military technicians (dual  
4 status) as of the last day of fiscal year 2025 for the re-  
5 serve components of the Army and the Air Force (notwith-  
6 standing section 129 of title 10, United States Code) shall  
7 be the following:

8 (1) For the Army National Guard of the United  
9 States, 22,294.

10 (2) For the Army Reserve, 6,492.

11 (3) For the Air National Guard of the United  
12 States, 10,744.

13 (4) For the Air Force Reserve, 6,697.

1 **SEC. 414 [log80226]. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVE PER-**  
2 **SONNEL AUTHORIZED TO BE ON ACTIVE**  
3 **DUTY FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.**

4 During fiscal year 2025, the maximum number of  
5 members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces  
6 who may be serving at any time on full-time operational  
7 support duty under section 115(b) of title 10, United  
8 States Code, is the following:

9 (1) The Army National Guard of the United  
10 States, 17,000.

11 (2) The Army Reserve, 13,000.

12 (3) The Navy Reserve, 6,200.

13 (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 3,000.

14 (5) The Air National Guard of the United  
15 States, 16,000.

16 (6) The Air Force Reserve, 14,000.

1                   **Subtitle A—Officer Policy**

2   **SEC. 501 [log80888]. AUTHORITY TO EXCLUDE ADDITIONAL**  
3                   **POSITIONS FROM LIMITATIONS ON THE NUM-**  
4                   **BER OF GENERAL OFFICERS AND FLAG OFFI-**  
5                   **CERS ON ACTIVE DUTY.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 526 of title 10, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8                   (1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (j)  
9                   as subsections (h) through (k), respectively; and

10                  (2) by inserting, after subsection (f), the fol-  
11                  lowing new subsection (g):

12           “(g) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ADAPTIVE FORCE AC-  
13 COUNT.—The Secretary of Defense may designate up to  
14 45 general officer and flag officer positions for exclusion  
15 from the limitations in subsection (a) and in section  
16 525(a) of this title.”.

17           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of  
18 subsection (a) of section 501 of the National Defense Au-  
19 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–  
20 328; 10 U.S.C. 525 note) is hereby repealed.

1 **SEC. 502 [log80605]. PILOT PROGRAM ON PEER AND SUBOR-**  
2 **DINATE EVALUATIONS OF CERTAIN OFFI-**  
3 **CERS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-  
6 cerned shall implement, in an Armed Force, a five-year  
7 pilot program, pursuant to which—

8 (1) an officer described in subsection (b) shall  
9 be anonymously evaluated by peers and subordi-  
10 nates; and

11 (2) the results of such evaluations shall be fur-  
12 nished to a command selection or command quali-  
13 fication board concerned; and

14 (3) the command selection or command quali-  
15 fication board shall consider such results in deter-  
16 mining whether to recommend such officer for such  
17 selection or qualification.

18 (b) COVERED OFFICERS.—An officer described in  
19 this subsection is a regular officer—

20 (1) eligible for consideration for command;

21 (2) in grade O-5 or O-6; and

22 (3) in a career field—

23 (A) specified in subsection (c); or

24 (B) determined by the Secretary con-  
25 cerned.

1 (c) COVERED CAREER FIELDS.—The career fields  
2 specified in this subsection are the following:

3 (1) In the Navy, surface warfare, submarine  
4 warfare, special warfare, or explosive ordnance dis-  
5 posal.

6 (2) In the Marine Corps, infantry, logistics, or  
7 field artillery.

8 (3) In the Air Force, operations or logistics.

9 (4) In the Space Force, space operations.

10 (5) In the Coast Guard, afloat or engineering  
11 and command, control, communications, computers,  
12 cyber, and intelligence.

13 (d) SELECTION OF EVALUATORS.—The Secretary  
14 concerned may select an individual to evaluate an officer  
15 under the pilot program if the Secretary determines such  
16 individual has worked with the officer closely enough to  
17 have an informed opinion regarding the officer's leader-  
18 ship abilities. An officer may not have any input regarding  
19 the selection of an individual who shall evaluate such offi-  
20 cer.

21 (e) REPORT.—Not later than three months after the  
22 termination of a pilot program, a Secretary concerned  
23 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
24 a report regarding the pilot program. Elements of each  
25 such report shall include the following:

1           (1) The determination of the Secretary con-  
2           cerned whether the pilot program improved the com-  
3           mand selection or command qualification process of  
4           the Armed Force.

5           (2) The determination of the Secretary con-  
6           cerned whether to continue to use peer or subordi-  
7           nate evaluations in the command selection or com-  
8           mand qualification process of such Armed Force.

9           (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10           (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
11           mittees” means—

12                   (A) the Committee on Armed Services of  
13                   the House of Representatives;

14                   (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
15                   Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

16                   (C) the Committee on Armed Services of  
17                   the Senate; and

18                   (D) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
19                   and Transportation of the Senate.

20           (2) The terms “regular” and “Secretary con-  
21           cerned” have the meanings given such term in sec-  
22           tion 101 of title 10, United States Code.

1       **Subtitle B—Reserve Component**  
2                   **Management**

3       **SEC. 511 [log80446]. GRADES OF CERTAIN CHIEFS OF RE-**  
4                   **SERVE COMPONENTS.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—

6               (1) CHIEF OF ARMY RESERVE.—Section  
7               7038(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended  
8               by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the fol-  
9               lowing:

10           “(4) The Chief of Army Reserve, while so serving,  
11           holds the grade of lieutenant general.”.

12               (2) CHIEF OF NAVY RESERVE.—Section  
13               8083(b) of such title is amended by striking para-  
14               graph (4) and inserting the following:

15           “(4) The Chief of Navy Reserve, while so serving,  
16           holds the grade of vice admiral. ”.

17               (3) COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE.—  
18               Section 8084(b) of such title is amended by striking  
19               paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

20           “(4) The Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, while  
21           so serving, holds the grade of lieutenant general. ”.

22               (4) CHIEF OF AIR FORCE RESERVE.—Section  
23               9038(b) of such title is amended by striking para-  
24               graph (4) and inserting the following:

1       “(4) The Chief of Air Force Reserve, while so serving,  
2 holds the grade of lieutenant general.”.

3       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
4 subsection (a) shall take effect on the day that is one year  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply  
6 to appointments made after such date.

1 **SEC. 522 [log80445]. AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN**  
2 **SEPARATED MEMBERS OF THE AIR FORCE AS**  
3 **HONORARY SEPARATED MEMBERS OF THE**  
4 **SPACE FORCE.**

5 Chapter 933 of title 10, United States Code, is  
6 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“§ 9254. Authority to designate certain separated**  
8 **members of the Air Force as honorary**  
9 **separated members of the Space Force**

10 “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Air Force  
11 may prescribe regulations that authorize an eligible indi-  
12 vidual to be designated as an honorary separated member  
13 of the Space Force. An eligible individual so designated  
14 may be referred to as a ‘Legacy Guardian’.

15 “(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Regulations prescribed under this  
16 section may include the following elements:

17 “(1) Eligibility criteria, including applicable  
18 dates of service and constructive service credit, for  
19 designation under this section.

20 “(2) An application process through which an  
21 eligible individual, or a survivor of a deceased eligi-  
22 ble individual, may apply for such designation of  
23 such eligible individual.

24 “(3) A certificate, approved device, or other in-  
25 signia of such designation.

1       “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Designation of an  
2 eligible individual under this section shall not be construed  
3 to entitle such eligible individual to any benefit in addition  
4 to those established by this section or pursuant to regula-  
5 tions prescribed under this section.

6       “(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-  
7 tion, the term ‘eligible individual’ means an individual—

8               “(1) whom the Secretary of the Air Force de-  
9 termines served in support of space operations as a  
10 member of the Air Force; and

11              “(2) who separates (or previously separated)  
12 from the armed forces as a member of the Air  
13 Force.”.

1 **SEC. 532 [log80168]. MODERNIZATION OF RECRUITMENT**  
2 **FOR THE ARMY.**

3 (a) MODERNIZATION.—Not later than September 30,  
4 2025, the Secretary of the Army shall modernize recruit-  
5 ment for the Army in order to attract and retain fit and  
6 ready individuals to serve as members of the Army. To  
7 carry out such modernization, the Secretary shall take  
8 steps including the following:

9 (1) Establish a military occupational specialty  
10 for enlisted members who specialize in talent acqui-  
11 sition.

12 (2) Establish a professional recruiting force of  
13 warrant officers who specialize in talent acquisition,  
14 data analytics, and other human resource functions  
15 necessary to develop expertise in recruiting and mili-  
16 tary accessions.

17 (3) Routinely determining which areas of the  
18 United States yield greater-than-average numbers of  
19 recruits and, with regard to each such area—

20 (A) build relationships with sources of such  
21 recruits, including schools; and

22 (B) assign additional recruiting personnel.

23 (4) Consider using a commercially available,  
24 off-the-shelf, recruiting platform.

25 (b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than the last day of each  
26 quarter of fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of the Army

1 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the  
2 Senate and House of Representatives a briefing on the im-  
3 plementation of this section. Each such briefing shall in-  
4 clude the following:

5 (1) An up-to-date timeline, milestones, re-  
6 sources used, and resources needed for such imple-  
7 mentation.

8 (2) The number of enlisted members, officers,  
9 and civilian employees of the Army required to carry  
10 out this section .

11 (3) Policies altered or prescribed by the Sec-  
12 retary to carry out this section and recruit a capable  
13 and ready all-volunteer force.

14 (4) Related legislative recommendations of the  
15 Secretary.

1     **Subtitle E—Member Training and**  
2                     **Education**

3     **SEC. 541 [log80610]. EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL EN-**  
4                     **GAGEMENT AUTHORITIES FOR SERVICE**  
5                     **ACADEMIES.**

6         Section 347 of title 10, United States Code, is  
7     amended, in subsection (a)(1)(B), by striking “60” and  
8     inserting “80”.

1 **SEC. 542 [log80845]. REDUCTION TO MINIMUM NUMBER OF**  
2 **PARTICIPATING STUDENTS REQUIRED TO ES-**  
3 **TABLISH OR MAINTAIN A UNIT OF JROTC.**

4 Section 2031(b)(1)(A) of title 10, United States  
5 Code, is amended by striking “100” and inserting “50”.

1 **SEC. 543 [log80574]. NUMBER OF FOREIGN MILITARY MED-**  
2 **ICAL STUDENTS WHO MAY ATTEND UNI-**  
3 **FORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE**  
4 **HEALTH SCIENCES UNDER AN EXCHANGE**  
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 Section 2114(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code,  
7 is amended by striking “40 persons” and inserting “50  
8 persons”.

1 **SEC. 544 [log80619]. PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION:**

2 **TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO DEFINITIONS.**

3 Section 2151 of title 10, United States Code, is  
4 amended, in subsection (b)(3), by striking “National De-  
5 fense Intelligence College” and inserting “National Intel-  
6 ligence University”.

1 **SEC. 545 [log80614]. ALTERNATIVE SERVICE OBLIGATION**  
2 **FOR A CADET OR MIDSHIPMAN WHO BE-**  
3 **COMES A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE.**

4 (a) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Section  
5 7448 of title 10, United States Code, is amended as fol-  
6 lows:

7 (1) Paragraph (5) of subsection (a) is amended  
8 to read as follows: “That if the cadet obtains em-  
9 ployment as a professional athlete before completing  
10 the commissioned service obligation of such cadet,  
11 the cadet shall be subject to the alternative obliga-  
12 tion under subsection (b)(4).”

13 (2) Subsection (b) is amended—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The  
15 Secretary of the Army” and inserting “Subject  
16 to paragraph (4), the Secretary of the Army”;  
17 and

18 (B) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-  
19 ing the following:

20 “(4) The Secretary of the Army may transfer a cadet  
21 who violates paragraph (5) of subsection (a) to the Se-  
22 lected Reserve of the Army—

23 “(A) as a commissioned officer in an appro-  
24 priate grade or rating, as determined by the Sec-  
25 retary of the Army; and

26 “(B) for a period not to exceed 10 years.”.

1           (3) Paragraph (2) of subsection (c) is amended  
2           to read as follows:

3           “(2) that a cadet transferred under subsection  
4           (b)(4) shall, as part of the alternative obligation  
5           under such subsection, participate in efforts to re-  
6           cruit and retain members of the Army.”.

7           (4) Subsection (f) is amended by striking “the  
8           alternative obligation” and inserting “an alternative  
9           obligation”.

10          (b) UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.—Section  
11   8459 of title 10, United States Code, is amended as fol-  
12   lows:

13           (1) Paragraph (5) of subsection (a) is amended  
14           to read as follows: “That if the midshipman obtains  
15           employment as a professional athlete before com-  
16           pleting the commissioned service obligation of such  
17           cadet, the midshipman shall be subject to the alter-  
18           native obligation under subsection (b)(4).”

19           (2) Subsection (b) is amended—

20           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The  
21           Secretary of the Navy” and inserting “Subject  
22           to paragraph (4), the Secretary of the Navy”;  
23           and

24           (B) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-  
25           ing the following:

1 “(4) The Secretary of the Navy may transfer a mid-  
2 shipman who violates paragraph (5) of subsection (a) to  
3 the Selected Reserve of the Navy or the Marine Corps—

4 “(A) as a commissioned officer in an appro-  
5 priate grade or rating, as determined by the Sec-  
6 retary of the Navy; and

7 “(B) for a period not to exceed 10 years.”.

8 (3) Paragraph (2) of subsection (c) is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 “(2) that a midshipman transferred under sub-  
11 section (b)(4) shall, as part of the alternative obliga-  
12 tion under such subsection, participate in efforts to  
13 recruit and retain members of the Navy and Marine  
14 Corps.”.

15 (4) Subsection (f) is amended by striking “the  
16 alternative obligation” and inserting “an alternative  
17 obligation”.

18 (c) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Section  
19 9448 of title 10, United States Code, is amended as fol-  
20 lows:

21 (1) Paragraph (5) of subsection (a) is amended  
22 to read as follows: “That if the cadet obtains em-  
23 ployment as a professional athlete before completing  
24 the commissioned service obligation of such cadet,

1 the cadet shall be subject to the alternative obliga-  
2 tion under subsection (b)(4).”

3 (2) Subsection (b) is amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The  
5 Secretary of the Air Force” and inserting “Sub-  
6 ject to paragraph (4), the Secretary of the Air  
7 Force”; and

8 (B) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-  
9 ing the following:

10 “(4) The Secretary of the Army may transfer a cadet  
11 who violates paragraph (5) of subsection (a) to the Se-  
12 lected Reserve of the Air Force or Space Force—

13 “(A) as a commissioned officer in an appro-  
14 priate grade or rating, as determined by the Sec-  
15 retary of the Air Force; and

16 “(B) for a period not to exceed 10 years.”.

17 (3) Paragraph (2) of subsection (c) is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 “(2) that a cadet transferred under subsection  
20 (b)(4) shall, as part of the alternative obligation  
21 under such subsection, participate in efforts to re-  
22 cruit and retain members of the Air Force and  
23 Space Force.”.

- 1           (4) Subsection (f) is amended by striking “the
- 2           alternative obligation” and inserting “an alternative
- 3           obligation”.

1 **SEC. 546 [log80616]. NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL:**  
2 **FUNCTION.**

3 (a) **FUNCTION.**—Section 8541 of title 10, United  
4 States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding para-  
5 graph (1), by striking “advanced instruction and profes-  
6 sional and technical education and research opportunities  
7 for commissioned officers of the naval service” and insert-  
8 ing “advanced instruction, professional and technical edu-  
9 cation, and opportunities in applied research and innova-  
10 tion, for commissioned and noncommissioned officers”.

11 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 8542(b) of  
12 title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking para-  
13 graph (1) and inserting the following:

14 “(1) carrying out the function described in sec-  
15 tion 8541 of this title; and”.

1 **SEC. 547 [Log 80609]. ENSURING ACCESS TO CERTAIN HIGH-**  
2 **ER EDUCATION BENEFITS.**

3 (a) DATA MATCHING REQUIRED.—Not later than  
4 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
5 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Education shall  
6 jointly complete a data matching process—

7 (1) to identify each individual who, while serv-  
8 ing as a covered employee of the Department of De-  
9 fense, made one or more student loan payments eli-  
10 gible to be counted for purposes of the Public Serv-  
11 ice Loan Forgiveness program under section 455(m)  
12 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
13 1087e(m)); and

14 (2) without requiring further information or ac-  
15 tion from such individual—

16 (A) to certify the total period of such em-  
17 ployment for purposes of such program; and

18 (B) to count the total number of qualifying  
19 payments made by the individual for purposes  
20 of such program during such period.

21 (b) COVERED EMPLOYEE DEFINED.—In this section,  
22 the term “covered employee” means an individual who, at  
23 any time beginning on or after October 1, 2007, was—

24 (1) a member of the Armed Forces serving on  
25 active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive  
26 days; or

1                   (2) a civilian employee of the Department of  
2       Defense.

1     **Subtitle F—Military Justice and**  
2             **Other Legal Matters**

3     **SEC. 551 [Log 80939]. AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL TRIAL COUN-**  
4             **SEL WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN OFFENSES**  
5             **OCCURRING BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE OF**  
6             **MILITARY JUSTICE REFORMS.**

7         Section 824a(d) of title 10, United States Code, as  
8         added by section 531 of the National Defense Authoriza-  
9         tion Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 137  
10        Stat. 258), is amended—

11            (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “section  
12            920 (article 120),” and inserting “section 919a (ar-  
13            ticle 119a), section 920 (article 120), section 920a  
14            (article 120a),”;

15            (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
16            graph (3);

17            (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
18            lowing new paragraph:

19            “(2) THE STANDALONE OFFENSE OF SEXUAL  
20            HARASSMENT.—After January 1, 2025, a special  
21            trial counsel may, at the sole and exclusive discre-  
22            tion of the special trial counsel, exercise authority  
23            over the following offenses:

1 “(A) The standalone offense of sexual har-  
2 assment punishable under section 934 of this  
3 title (article 134) in each instance in which—

4 “(i) the offense occurs after January  
5 26, 2022, and on or before January 1,  
6 2025; and

7 “(ii) a formal complaint is substan-  
8 tiated in accordance with regulations pre-  
9 scribed by the Secretary concerned.

10 “(B) A conspiracy to commit an offense  
11 specified in subparagraph (A) as punishable  
12 under section 881 of this title (article 81).

13 “(C) A solicitation to commit an offense  
14 specified in subparagraph (A) as punishable  
15 under section 882 of this title (article 82).

16 “(D) An attempt to commit an offense  
17 specified in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) as  
18 punishable under section 880 of this title (arti-  
19 cle 80).”; and

20 (4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or  
22 (2)” after “paragraph (1)”; and

23 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
24 “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection

- 1 (c)(2)(A) or paragraph (1) or (2) of this sub-
- 2 section”.

1 **SEC. 552 [Log 80940]. DETAILING OF APPELLATE DEFENSE**  
2 **COUNSEL.**

3 Subsection (b) of section 865 of title 10, United  
4 States Code (article 65 of the Uniform Code of Military  
5 Justice), is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)—

7 (A) by striking “the Judge Advocate Gen-  
8 eral shall forward the record” and inserting the  
9 following: “the Judge Advocate General shall  
10 forward—

11 “(A) the record”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (A), as designated by  
13 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking  
14 the period and inserting “; and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
16 subparagraph:

17 “(B) a copy of the record of trial to an ap-  
18 pellate defense counsel who shall be detailed to  
19 review the case and, upon request of the ac-  
20 cused, to represent the accused before the  
21 Court of Criminal Appeals.”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
25 by striking “shall” and inserting “shall,  
26 upon written request of the accused”;

- 1                   (ii) in clause (i), by striking “, upon  
2 request of the accused,”; and  
3                   (iii) in clause (ii), by striking “upon  
4 written request of the accused,”; and  
5 (B) in subparagraph (B)—  
6                   (i) by striking “accused” and all that  
7 follows through “waives” and inserting  
8 “accused waives”;  
9                   (ii) by striking “; or” and inserting a  
10 period; and  
11                   (iii) by striking clause (ii).

1 **SEC. 553 [Log 80333]. MODIFICATION TO OFFENSE OF AID-**  
2 **ING THE ENEMY UNDER THE UNIFORM CODE**  
3 **OF MILITARY JUSTICE.**

4 Section 903b(2) of title 10, United States Code (arti-  
5 cle 103b(2) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is  
6 amended by inserting “provides military education, mili-  
7 tary training, or tactical advice to,” after “gives intel-  
8 ligence to,”.

1 **SEC. 554 [Log 80515]. MODIFICATION OF TIMELINE FOR PO-**  
2 **TENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY ON**  
3 **UNANIMOUS COURT-MARTIAL VERDICTS.**

4 Section 536(c)(3) of the National Defense Authoriza-  
5 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 137  
6 Stat. 263) is amended by striking “2027” and inserting  
7 “2025”.

1 **SEC. 555 [Log 80941]. EXPANDED COMMAND NOTIFICA-**  
2 **TIONS TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

3 Section 549 of the National Defense Authorization  
4 Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 10 U.S.C.  
5 806b note) is amended—

6 (1) in the first sentence—

7 (A) by inserting “, or a case of an alleged  
8 domestic violence-related offense (as defined by  
9 the Secretary),” after “of title 10, United  
10 States Code)”; and

11 (B) by striking “periodically notify the vic-  
12 tim” and inserting “periodically notify the vic-  
13 tim (or the victim’s legal counsel if so requested  
14 by the victim)”; and

15 (2) in the last sentence, by striking “notify the  
16 victim” and inserting “notify the victim (or the vic-  
17 tim’s legal counsel if so requested by the victim)”.

1 **SEC. 556 [Log 80507]. PROHIBITING THE BROADCAST AND**  
2 **DISTRIBUTION OF DIGITALLY MANIPULATED**  
3 **INTIMATE IMAGES.**

4 (a) RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRED.—The Joint  
5 Service Committee on Military Justice shall develop rec-  
6 ommendations for modifying the offense of indecent view-  
7 ing, visual recording, or broadcasting under section 920c  
8 of title 10, United States Code (article 120c of the Uni-  
9 form Code of Military Justice) to clarify its applicability  
10 to the broadcasting and distribution of digitally manipu-  
11 lated intimate images.

12 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing recommenda-  
13 tions under subsection (a), the Joint Service Committee  
14 on Military Justice shall consider—

15 (1) the advisability of modifying section 920c of  
16 title 10, United States Code (article 120c of the  
17 Uniform Code of Military Justice)—

18 (A) to prohibit the broadcasting or dis-  
19 tribution of an intimate digital depiction of an-  
20 other person that the offender knew or reason-  
21 ably should have known was made without the  
22 other person’s consent and under circumstances  
23 in which that person has a reasonable expecta-  
24 tion of privacy; and

25 (B) to define the term “intimate digital de-  
26 piction” (as used in subparagraph (A)) as a

1 digital depiction of an individual that has been  
2 created or altered using digital manipulation  
3 and that depicts—

4 (i) the private area of an identifiable  
5 individual; or

6 (ii) an identifiable individual engaging  
7 in sexually explicit conduct (as defined in  
8 section 917a(b) of title 10, United States  
9 Code (article 117a(b)(4) of the Uniform  
10 Code of Military Justice)); and

11 (2) such other approaches to the modification  
12 of such section 920c (article 120c) as the Committee  
13 considers appropriate to address digitally manipu-  
14 lated intimate images.

15 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Service Committee  
17 on Military Justice shall submit to the Committees on  
18 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Represent-  
19 atives a report that includes—

20 (1) the recommendations developed under sub-  
21 section (a); and

22 (2) draft legislative text that sets forth all  
23 amendments and modifications to law that may be  
24 needed to effectively implement such recommenda-  
25 tions.

1 **SEC. 557 [Log 80513]. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN RECORDS**  
2 **OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 79 of title 10, United  
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1552  
5 the following new section:

6 **“§ 1552a. Treatment of certain records of criminal in-**  
7 **vestigations**

8 “(a) GUIDANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of De-  
9 fense shall develop and implement uniform guidance pro-  
10 viding for the modification of titling and indexing systems  
11 to ensure that a record identifying a member or former  
12 member of the Armed Forces as the subject of a criminal  
13 investigation is removed from such system if that member  
14 or former member is cleared of wrongdoing as described  
15 in subsection (b).

16 “(b) DISPOSITION OF INVESTIGATIONS.—A member  
17 or former member of the Armed Forces who is the subject  
18 of a criminal investigation shall be considered to have been  
19 cleared of wrongdoing for purposes of subsection (a) if—

20 “(1) an investigation conducted by a defense  
21 criminal investigative organization or another Fed-  
22 eral or civilian law enforcement agency determines  
23 that—

24 “(A) no probable cause exists to support  
25 that the member or former member is respon-  
26 sible for the alleged offense; or

1 “(B) the member or former member was  
2 mistakenly identified as a subject; or

3 “(2) the reasons specified for the charges for  
4 which the member or former member was under in-  
5 vestigation are unsupported by probable cause as de-  
6 termined by—

7 “(A) a court-martial or other proceeding  
8 brought under chapter 47 of this title; or

9 “(B) a civilian court.

10 “(c) PROHIBITION ON INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION.—

11 No member of an Armed Force may be involuntarily sepa-  
12 rated solely for an offense for which the member is cleared  
13 of wrongdoing as described in subsection (b).

14 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) The term ‘defense criminal investigative  
16 organization’ means—

17 “(A) the Army Criminal Investigation  
18 Command;

19 “(B) the Naval Criminal Investigative  
20 Service;

21 “(C) the Air Force Office of Special Inves-  
22 tigation;

23 “(D) the Coast Guard Investigative Serv-  
24 ice;

1 “(E) the Defense Criminal Investigative  
2 Service; and

3 “(F) any other organization or element of  
4 the Department of Defense or an Armed Force  
5 that is responsible for conducting criminal in-  
6 vestigations.

7 “(2) The term ‘indexing’ means the practice of  
8 submitting an individual’s name or other personally  
9 identifiable information to the Federal Bureau of In-  
10 vestigation’s Interstate Identification Index, or any  
11 successor system.

12 “(3) The term ‘titling’ means the practice of  
13 identifying an individual as the subject of a criminal  
14 investigation in the records of a military criminal in-  
15 vestigative organization and storing such informa-  
16 tion in a database or other records system.

17 “(4) The term ‘titling and indexing system’  
18 means any database or other records system used by  
19 a defense criminal investigative organization for pur-  
20 poses of titling and indexing, including the Defense  
21 Central Index of Investigations (commonly known as  
22 ‘DCII’).”.

23 (b) REVIEW AND DOCUMENTATION.—Not later than  
24 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each  
25 Secretary concerned, pursuant to the guidance issued by

1 the Secretary of Defense under section 1552a of title 10,  
2 United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), and in  
3 consultation with the appropriate Judge Advocate Gen-  
4 eral, shall—

5 (1) review the titling and indexing systems of  
6 the defense criminal investigative organizations  
7 under the jurisdiction of such Secretary to identify  
8 each record in such system that pertains to a mem-  
9 ber or former member of the Armed Forces who has  
10 been cleared of wrongdoing as described in sub-  
11 section (b) of such section 1552a;

12 (2) notify the defense criminal investigative or-  
13 ganization involved of each record identified under  
14 paragraph (1); and

15 (3) direct the head of the organization to re-  
16 move the record in accordance with subsection (c).

17 (c) DEADLINE FOR REMOVAL.—The head of a de-  
18 fense criminal investigative organization that receives a  
19 notice under subsection (b)(2) with respect to a record in  
20 a titling or indexing system shall ensure that the record  
21 is removed from such system by not later than 30 days  
22 after the date on which the notice is received.

23 (d) EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.—The requirements of  
24 this section and the amendments made by this section are  
25 in addition to any requirements imposed under section 549

1 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
2 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 10 U.S.C. 1552 note). This  
3 section and the amendments made by this section shall  
4 supersede any provision of section 549 of that Act that  
5 is inconsistent with this section or such amendments, but  
6 only to the extent of the inconsistency.

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) The terms “defense criminal investigative  
9 organization”, “indexing”, “titling”, and “titling  
10 and indexing system” have the meanings given those  
11 terms in section 1552a(d) of title 10, United States  
12 Code (as added by subsection (a)).

13 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the  
14 meaning given that term in section 101(a) of title  
15 10, United States Code.

1       **Subtitle G—Member Transition**

2       **SEC. 561 [log80847]. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:**  
3                   **PRESENTATION IN PRESEPARATION COUN-**  
4                   **SELING TO PROMOTE BENEFITS AVAILABLE**  
5                   **TO VETERANS.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1142(b) of title 10,  
7 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
8 following new paragraph:

9               “(20) A presentation that promotes the benefits  
10       available to veterans under the laws administered by  
11       the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Such presen-  
12       tation—

13               “(A) shall be standardized;

14               “(B) shall, before implementation, be re-  
15       viewed and approved by the Secretary of Vet-  
16       erans Affairs in collaboration with veterans  
17       service organizations that provide claims assist-  
18       ance under the benefits delivery at discharge  
19       program of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

20               “(C) shall be submitted by the Secretary of  
21       Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Vet-  
22       erans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of  
23       Representatives for review at least 90 days be-  
24       fore implementation;

1 “(D) where available, shall be presented  
2 with the participation of—

3 “(i) a representative of a veterans  
4 service organization recognized under sec-  
5 tion 5902 of title 38; or

6 “(ii) an individual—

7 “(I) recognized under section  
8 5903 of such title; and

9 “(II) authorized by the Secretary  
10 concerned to so participate;

11 “(E) shall include information on how a  
12 veterans service organization may assist the  
13 member in filing a claim described in paragraph  
14 (19);

15 “(F) may not encourage the member to  
16 join a particular veterans service organization;  
17 and

18 “(G) may not be longer than one hour.”.

19 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less than frequently than  
20 once each year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
21 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit, to the  
22 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House  
23 of Representatives, and to the Committees on Veterans’  
24 Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives, a re-  
25 port that—

- 1           (1) identifies each veterans service organization
- 2           that participated in a presentation under paragraph
- 3           (20) of section 1142(b) of title 10, United States
- 4           Code, as added by subsection (a);
- 5           (2) contains the number of members of the
- 6           Armed Forces who attended such presentations; and
- 7           (3) includes any recommendations of the Sec-
- 8           retary regarding changes to such presentation or to
- 9           such paragraph.

1 **Subtitle H—Family Programs,**  
2 **Child Care, and Dependent Edu-**  
3 **cation**

4 **SEC. 571 [Log 80420]. STAFFING OF DEPARTMENT OF DE-**  
5 **FENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY SCHOOLS TO**  
6 **MAINTAIN MAXIMUM STUDENT-TO-TEACHER**  
7 **RATIOS.**

8 Section 589B(c) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry  
9 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021  
10 (Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 3659) is amended by  
11 striking “2023-2024 academic year” and inserting “2029-  
12 2030 academic year”.

1 **SEC. 572 [Log 80444]. CERTAIN ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL EDU-**  
2 **CATIONAL AGENCIES THAT BENEFIT DE-**  
3 **PENDENTS OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PER-**  
4 **SONNEL.**

5 (a) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO ASSIST LOCAL  
6 EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES THAT BENEFIT DEPENDENTS  
7 OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEPARTMENT  
8 OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.—Of the amount au-  
9 thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 by section  
10 301 and available for operation and maintenance for De-  
11 fense-wide activities as specified in the funding table in  
12 section 4301, \$50,000,000 shall be available only for the  
13 purpose of providing assistance to local educational agen-  
14 cies under subsection (a) of section 572 of the National  
15 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public  
16 Law 109–163; 20 U.S.C. 7703b).

17 (b) IMPACT AID FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DIS-  
18 ABILITIES.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated  
19 for fiscal year 2025 pursuant to section 301 and available  
20 for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities  
21 as specified in the funding table in section 4301,  
22 \$20,000,000 shall be available for payments under section  
23 363 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authoriza-  
24 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Pub-  
25 lic Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–77; 20 U.S.C. 7703a).

1       (c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In  
2 this section, the term “local educational agency” has the  
3 meaning given that term in section 7013(9) of the Ele-  
4 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
5 7713(9)).

1 **SEC. 573 [Log 80612]. VERIFICATION OF REPORTING OF ELI-**  
2 **GIBLE FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN**  
3 **FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL IMPACT AID**  
4 **PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) CERTIFICATION.—On an annual basis, each com-  
6 mander of a military installation under the jurisdiction of  
7 the Secretary of a military department shall submit to  
8 such Secretary a written certification verifying whether  
9 the commander has confirmed the information contained  
10 in all impact aid source check forms received from local  
11 educational agencies as of the date of such certification.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later June 30 of each year, each  
13 Secretary of a military department shall submit to the  
14 congressional defense committees a report, based on the  
15 information received under subsection (a), that identi-  
16 fies—

17 (1) each military installation under the jurisdic-  
18 tion of such Secretary that has confirmed the infor-  
19 mation contained in all impact aid source check  
20 forms received from local educational agencies as of  
21 the date of the report; and

22 (2) each military installation that has not con-  
23 firmed the information contained in such forms as of  
24 such date.

25 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) The term “impact aid source check form”  
2       means a form submitted to a military installation by  
3       a local educational agency to confirm the number  
4       and identity of children eligible to be counted for  
5       purposes of the Federal impact aid program under  
6       section 7003(a) of the Elementary and Secondary  
7       Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7703(a)).

8           (2) The term “local educational agency” has  
9       the meaning given that term in section 8101 of the  
10      Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
11      (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1 **Subtitle I—Decorations and**  
2 **Awards and Other Personnel**  
3 **Matters, Reports, and Briefings**

4 **SEC. 581 [log80604]. PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARD-**  
5 **ING FEDERAL SERVICE TO CERTAIN PER-**  
6 **SONS DETERMINED NOT QUALIFIED TO EN-**  
7 **LIST IN CERTAIN ARMED FORCES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
10 shall prescribe regulations directing the Secretary of a  
11 military department to provide, to a person described in  
12 subsection (b), information regarding opportunities for  
13 Federal service for which the person may be qualified.

14 (b) CERTAIN PERSONS NOT QUALIFIED TO EN-  
15 LIST.—A person described in this subsection is a person  
16 determined not qualified to enlist in a covered Armed  
17 Force on the basis that the person—

18 (1) has a disqualifying medical condition for  
19 which the Secretary of the military department con-  
20 cerned may not issue a waiver; or

21 (2) enrolled in, but failed to graduate from, a  
22 future member preparatory course of such covered  
23 Armed Force.

1           (c) COVERED ARMED FORCE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
2   tion, the term “covered Armed Force” means the Army,  
3   Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force.

1 **Subtitle A—Basic Pay, Retired Pay,**  
2 **and Leave**

3 **SEC. 601 [log80424]. POLICY ON POSTPARTUM PHYSICAL**  
4 **FITNESS TESTS AND BODY COMPOSITION AS-**  
5 **SESSMENTS.**

6 Section 701(k) of title 10, United States Code, is  
7 amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

8 (1) by striking “gives birth” and inserting “is  
9 pregnant”; and

10 (2) by striking “such birth” and inserting  
11 “birth, loss of pregnancy, or stillbirth”.

1     **Subtitle B—Bonus and Incentive**  
2                     **Pays**

3     **SEC. 611 [log 80563]. INCENTIVE PAY: EXPLOSIVE ORD-**  
4                     **NANCE DISPOSAL DUTY.**

5             (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter I of Chapter 5 of  
6     title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting,  
7     after section 301e, the following new section:

8     **“§ 301f. Incentive pay: explosive ordnance disposal**  
9                     **duty.**

10            “(a) ELIGIBILITY.—(1) Subject to regulations pre-  
11     scribed by the Secretary of Defense, a regular member of  
12     a covered armed force is entitled to continuous monthly  
13     explosive ordnance disposal duty incentive pay in the  
14     amount specified in subsection (b)(1) if the member—

15                “(A) is entitled to basic pay;

16                “(B) holds (or is in training leading to) an ex-  
17     plosive ordnance disposal duty designator; and

18                “(C) is in and remains in explosive ordnance  
19     disposal duty on a career basis.

20            “(2) Subject to regulations prescribed by the Sec-  
21     retary of Defense, a member of a covered armed force who  
22     is entitled to basic pay but is not entitled to continuous  
23     monthly explosive ordnance disposal duty incentive pay  
24     under paragraph (1) is entitled to explosive ordnance dis-  
25     posal duty incentive pay in the amount prescribed pursu-

1 ant to subsection (b)(2) for any period during which such  
2 member performs explosive ordnance disposal duty under  
3 orders.

4 “(b) RATES.—(1) Continuous monthly explosive ord-  
5 nance disposal duty incentive pay under subsection (a)(1)  
6 shall be in the following amounts:

“Years of explosive ordnance disposal duty (including training):	Monthly Rate
2 or fewer	\$125
Over 2	\$156
Over 3	\$188
Over 4	\$206
Over 6	\$650
Over 8	\$800
Over 10	\$1,000
Over 17	\$840
Over 22	\$585
Over 24	\$385
Over 25	\$250

7 “(2) Explosive ordnance disposal duty incentive pay  
8 under subsection (a)(2)—

9 “(A) shall be in amounts prescribed by the Sec-  
10 retary of Defense;

11 “(B) may not, for any month, exceed the max-  
12 imum amount specified in paragraph (1); and

13 “(C) may not be less per day than the amount  
14 under subsection (d).

15 “(c) COMPUTATION OF YEARS.—Years of explosive  
16 ordnance disposal duty by a member shall be computed  
17 beginning with the effective date of the initial order to  
18 such member to perform explosive ordnance disposal duty.

1       “(d) APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN DUTY IN THE RE-  
2 SERVE COMPONENTS.—Under regulations prescribed by  
3 the Secretary of Defense and to the extent provided for  
4 by appropriations, for each day that a member of the re-  
5 serve component of a covered armed force who is entitled  
6 to compensation under section 206 of this title, performs,  
7 under orders, explosive ordnance disposal duty, such mem-  
8 ber is eligible for an increase in compensation equal to  
9 one-thirtieth of the continuous monthly incentive pay  
10 under subsection (b)(1) for a member of corresponding  
11 years of service entitled to basic pay.

12       “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13               “(1) The term ‘covered armed force’ means the  
14 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space  
15 Force.

16               “(2) The term ‘explosive ordnance disposal’ has  
17 the meaning given such term in section 2284 of title  
18 10.

19               “(3) The term ‘explosive ordnance disposal  
20 duty’ means duty performed by a member of a cov-  
21 ered armed force, under regulations prescribed by  
22 the Secretary of Defense, in explosive ordnance dis-  
23 posal.”.

24       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 301f of title 37,  
25 United States Code, added by this section, shall take effect

1 on the day that is six months after the date of the enact-  
2 ment of this Act and apply to explosive ordnance disposal  
3 duty performed on or after such day.

1 **SEC. 612 [log80297]. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EX-**  
2 **PIRING BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORI-**  
3 **TIES.**

4 (a) AUTHORITIES RELATING TO RESERVE  
5 FORCES.—Section 910(g) of title 37, United States Code,  
6 relating to income replacement payments for reserve com-  
7 ponent members experiencing extended and frequent mo-  
8 bilization for active duty service, is amended by striking  
9 “December 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31,  
10 2025”.

11 (b) TITLE 10 AUTHORITIES RELATING TO HEALTH  
12 CARE PROFESSIONALS.—The following sections of title  
13 10, United States Code, are amended by striking “Decem-  
14 ber 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2025”:

15 (1) Section 2130a(a)(1), relating to nurse offi-  
16 cer candidate accession program.

17 (2) Section 16302(d), relating to repayment of  
18 education loans for certain health professionals who  
19 serve in the Selected Reserve.

20 (c) AUTHORITIES RELATING TO NUCLEAR OFFI-  
21 CERS.—Section 333(i) of title 37, United States Code, is  
22 amended by striking “December 31, 2024” and inserting  
23 “December 31, 2025”.

24 (d) AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TITLE 37 CONSOLI-  
25 DATED SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AU-  
26 THORITIES.—The following sections of title 37, United

1 States Code, are amended by striking “December 31,  
2 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2025”:

3 (1) Section 331(h), relating to general bonus  
4 authority for enlisted members.

5 (2) Section 332(g), relating to general bonus  
6 authority for officers.

7 (3) Section 334(i), relating to special aviation  
8 incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.

9 (4) Section 335(k), relating to special bonus  
10 and incentive pay authorities for officers in health  
11 professions.

12 (5) Section 336(g), relating to contracting  
13 bonus for cadets and midshipmen enrolled in the  
14 Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

15 (6) Section 351(h), relating to hazardous duty  
16 pay.

17 (7) Section 352(g), relating to assignment pay  
18 or special duty pay.

19 (8) Section 353(i), relating to skill incentive  
20 pay or proficiency bonus.

21 (9) Section 355(h), relating to retention incen-  
22 tives for members qualified in critical military skills  
23 or assigned to high priority units.

1       (e) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY INCREASE  
2 IN RATES OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING.—Section  
3 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

4           (1) in paragraph (7)(E), relating to an area  
5 covered by a major disaster declaration or con-  
6 taining an installation experiencing an influx of mili-  
7 tary personnel, by striking “December 31, 2024”  
8 and inserting “December 31, 2025”; and

9           (2) in paragraph (8)(C), relating to an area  
10 where actual housing costs differ from current rates  
11 by more than 20 percent, by striking “September  
12 30, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2025”.

1                   **Subtitle C—Allowances**

2   **SEC. 621 [log80562]. BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING:**  
3                   **PILOT PROGRAM TO OUTSOURCE RATE CAL-**  
4                   **CULATION.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,  
6 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into  
7 an agreement with a covered entity pursuant to which the  
8 covered entity shall calculate, using industry-standard ma-  
9 chine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms, the  
10 monthly rates of BAH for not fewer than 15 MHAs.

11       (b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
13 to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and  
14 House of Representatives a report containing the evalua-  
15 tion of the Secretary of the rates calculated by a covered  
16 entity pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a).

17       (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section

18               (1) The term “BAH” means the basic allow-  
19               ance for housing for members of the uniformed serv-  
20               ices under section 403 of title 37, United States  
21               Code.

22               (2) The term “covered entity” means a nation-  
23               ally recognized entity in the field of single-family  
24               housing that has data on local rental rates in real  
25               estate markets across the United States.

1                   (3) The term “MHA” means military housing  
2           area.

1     **Subtitle D—Family and Survivor**  
2                     **Benefits**

3     **SEC. 631 [log80623]. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CER-**  
4                     **TAIN BENEFITS THAT ARISE FROM THE**  
5                     **DEATH OF A MEMBER OF THE ARMED**  
6                     **FORCES.**

7             (a) DEATH GRATUITY.—Section 1475(a)(4) of title  
8     10, United States Code, is amended by striking “for a pe-  
9     riod of more than 13 days”.

10            (b) RECOVERY, CARE, AND DISPOSITION OF RE-  
11     MAINS.—Section 1481(a) of title 10, United States Code,  
12     is amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
13     graph:

14                    “(11) Any person not otherwise covered by this  
15     section whose death entitles a survivor of such per-  
16     son to a death gratuity under section 1475 of this  
17     title.”.

18            (c) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM A CASUALTY  
19     ASSISTANCE OFFICER.—Section 633 of the National De-  
20     fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law  
21     113–66; 10 U.S.C. 1475 note) is amended—

22                    (1) in subsection (a)—

23                            (A) in paragraph (1)—

24                                    (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;  
25     and” and inserting a semicolon;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
2 the period at the end and inserting “;  
3 and”; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing new subparagraph:

6 “(C) an individual not described in subpara-  
7 graph (A) or (B) who is entitled to a death gratuity  
8 under section 1475 of title 10, United States  
9 Code.”;

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) by striking “spouses and depend-  
12 ents” each place it appears and inserting  
13 “survivors”; and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
15 “spouses and other dependents of deceased  
16 members” and inserting “such survivors”;  
17 and

18 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “the spouse  
19 and other dependents of a deceased member of the  
20 Armed Forces” and inserting “such a survivor”.

21 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
22 this section shall apply to a death that occurs on or after  
23 the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 632 [log80447]. PAYMENT INSTEAD OF REIMBURSE-**  
2 **MENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF CER-**  
3 **TAIN REMAINS TO TWO LOCATIONS IF THE**  
4 **SECOND LOCATION IS A NATIONAL CEME-**  
5 **TERY.**

6 Section 1482(a)(8)(B) of title 10, United States  
7 Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by striking  
8 “may pay for transportation to the second place only” and  
9 inserting “shall not require that payment for transpor-  
10 tation to the second place be”.

1 **SEC. 633 [log80552]. INFORMATION REGARDING PATERNAL**  
2 **ENGAGEMENT ON WEBSITE OF MILITARY**  
3 **ONESOURCE.**

4 Section 561 of the National Defense Authorization  
5 Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 10 U.S.C.  
6 1781 note) is amended, in subsection (b)—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through  
8 (16) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;  
9 and

10 (2) by inserting, after paragraph (10), the fol-  
11 lowing new paragraph (11):

12 “(11) Programs that encourage paternal en-  
13 gagement with the family.”.

1 **SEC. 634 [log80474]. MILITARY ONESOURCE FOR A REMAR-**  
2 **RIED SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DECEASED**  
3 **MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES: ELIGI-**  
4 **BILITY; INFORMATION.**

5 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—A surviving spouse of a deceased  
6 member of the Armed Forces may use the Military  
7 OneSource program of the Department of Defense regard-  
8 less of whether such surviving spouse remarries after the  
9 death of such member.

10 (b) WEBSITE INFORMATION.—The Secretary of De-  
11 fense shall publish and maintain, on the website for the  
12 Military OneSource program, information regarding cas-  
13 ualty assistance for a surviving spouse described in sub-  
14 section (a).

1           **Subtitle E—Other Benefits,**  
2           **Reports, and Briefings**  
3   **SEC. 641 [log80628]. PROMOTION OF TAX PREPARATION AS-**  
4           **SISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
6 ensure that each member of a covered Armed Force re-  
7 ceives, not later than March 1 of each year, a written no-  
8 tice regarding the MilTax program and other tax prepara-  
9 tion assistance programs furnished by the Secretary.

10          (b) REPORT.—Not later than six months after the  
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
12 mit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate  
13 and House of Representatives a report regarding the rates  
14 of participation by members of the covered Armed Forces  
15 in the programs described in subsection (a).

16          (c) COVERED ARMED FORCE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
17 tion, the term “covered Armed Force” means the Army,  
18 Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force.

1     **Subtitle A—TRICARE and Other**  
2                   **Health Benefits**

3     **SEC. 701 [log80412]. TRICARE DENTAL PLAN FOR THE SE-**  
4                   **LECTED RESERVE.**

5           Section 1076a of title 10, United States Code, is  
6 amended—

7           (1) in subsection (a)—

8               (A) in paragraph (1)—

9                   (i) in the header, by striking “selected  
10                   reserve and”; and

11                  (ii) by striking “for members of the  
12                   Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve  
13                   and”;

14               (B) in paragraph (2), in the header, by in-  
15               serting “Individual Ready” after “other”; and

16               (C) by adding at the end the following new  
17               paragraph:

18               “(5) PLAN FOR SELECTED RESERVE.—A dental  
19               benefits plan for members of the Selected Reserve of  
20               the Ready Reserve.”;

21           (2) in subsection (d)—

22               (A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
23               paragraph (4); and

24               (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
25               following new paragraph:

1           “(3) NO PREMIUM PLANS.—(A) The dental in-  
2           surance plan established under subsection (a)(5) is  
3           a no premium plan.

4           “(B) Members enrolled in a no premium plan  
5           may not be charged a premium for benefits provided  
6           under the plan.”;

7           (3) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “a mem-  
8           ber of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve  
9           or”;

10          (4) by redesignating subsections (f) through (k)  
11          as subsections (g) through (l), respectively;

12          (5) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
13          lowing new subsection (f):

14          “(f) COPAYMENTS UNDER NO PREMIUM PLANS.—A  
15          member who receives dental care under a no premium plan  
16          referred to in subsection (d)(3) shall pay no charge for  
17          any care described in subsection (c).”; and

18          (6) in subsection (i), as redesignated by para-  
19          graph (4), by striking “subsection (k)(2)” and in-  
20          serting “subsection (l)(2)”.

1 **SEC. 702 [log80803]. EXTENSION OF EFFECTIVE DATE RE-**  
2 **GARDING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE**  
3 **TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM.**

4 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 1076a of title 10, United  
5 States Code, is amended by striking “January 1, 2026”  
6 each place it appears and inserting “January 1, 2027”.

7 (b) RULEMAKING; BRIEFING.—Section 701 of the  
8 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for  
9 Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 10 U.S.C. 1076a  
10 note) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “January  
13 1, 2025” and inserting “January 1, 2026”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “January  
15 1, 2026” and inserting “January 1, 2027”; and

16 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “and 2026”  
17 and inserting “2026, and 2027”.

1 **SEC. 703 [log80410]. LICENSURE REQUIREMENT FOR CER-**  
2 **TAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PRO-**  
3 **VIDING CERTAIN EXAMINATIONS TO MEM-**  
4 **BERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS.**

5 Section 1094(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code,  
6 is amended by inserting “an examination or assessment  
7 under section 10206 of this title or” after “not covered  
8 under section 1091 of this title who is providing”.

1 **SEC. 704 [log80448]. REIMBURSEMENTS UNDER THE**  
2 **TRICARE PROGRAM TO CANCER AND CHIL-**  
3 **DREN'S HOSPITALS FOR OUTPATIENT CARE**  
4 **OF BENEFICIARIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—When evaluating an application  
6 under the TRICARE program by a cancer hospital or a  
7 children's hospital for a general temporary military contin-  
8 gency payment adjustment to a reimbursement amount  
9 under the TRICARE outpatient prospective payment sys-  
10 tem, the Secretary of Defense shall consider the adequacy  
11 of the TRICARE network and the availability of special-  
12 ized health care services for affected beneficiaries.

13 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
14 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
15 shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the  
16 Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding  
17 applications, payments, and adjustments described in sub-  
18 section (a). The report shall include the following ele-  
19 ments:

20 (1) A list of payment mechanisms available to  
21 the Secretary to make a reimbursement described in  
22 subsection (a).

23 (2) A list of the authorities for such payment  
24 mechanisms.

1           (3) A list of the payment adjustments the Sec-  
2       retary may make to a reimbursement amount de-  
3       scribed in subsection (a).

4           (4) The factors the Secretary considers when  
5       determining whether to make such a payment ad-  
6       justment.

7           (5) Whether the Secretary measures the effects  
8       of a change to a reimbursement or payment adjust-  
9       ment when determining whether to continue such a  
10      payment adjustment.

11          (6) Any identified differences in diagnoses or  
12      the complexity of care, for pediatric TRICARE out-  
13      patients at children's hospitals and at other hos-  
14      pitals.

15          (7) The extent to which differences in such pay-  
16      ments reflect differences in the complexity of care  
17      for such patients.

18          (8) Recently identified trends in the use of chil-  
19      dren's hospital services by pediatric TRICARE pa-  
20      tients.

1 **SEC. 705 [log80313]. PILOT PROGRAM TO TREAT PREG-**  
2 **NANCY AS A QUALIFYING EVENT FOR EN-**  
3 **ROLLMENT IN TRICARE SELECT.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 Defense shall commence a five-year pilot program under  
7 which the Secretary shall treat pregnancy as a qualifying  
8 event, under section 1099(b)(1)(B) of title 10, United  
9 States Code, for enrollment in TRICARE Select by an eli-  
10 gible beneficiary.

11 (b) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year  
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
13 shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees  
14 a briefing on the status of the pilot program under sub-  
15 section (a).

16 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after  
17 the Secretary commences the pilot program under sub-  
18 section (a), and annually thereafter for the next four  
19 years, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate con-  
20 gressional committees a report on the pilot program. Each  
21 such report shall include the number of covered enrollment  
22 changes, disaggregated by—

23 (1) month, beginning with January, 2023; and

24 (2) whether the eligible beneficiary made such  
25 covered enrollment change—

1 (A) because the eligible beneficiary is a  
2 member of the uniformed services who sepa-  
3 rated from active duty;

4 (B) because the eligible beneficiary is a  
5 member of the uniformed services who returned  
6 to active duty;

7 (C) because the eligible beneficiary is a de-  
8 pendent of a member of the uniformed services  
9 who separated from active duty;

10 (D) because the eligible beneficiary is a de-  
11 pendent of a member of the uniformed services  
12 who returned to active duty; or

13 (E) based on the treatment, under the  
14 pilot program, of pregnancy as a qualifying  
15 event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The term “covered enrollment change”  
18 means a change to a previous election by an eligible  
19 beneficiary under subsection (b)(1) of section 1099  
20 of title 10, United States Code, to enroll in a health  
21 care plan designated under subsection (c) of such  
22 section.

23 (2) The term “eligible beneficiary” means a  
24 beneficiary eligible to enroll in TRICARE Select

1 under section 1075(b) of title 10, United States  
2 Code.

3 (3) The terms “TRICARE program” and  
4 “TRICARE Select” have the meanings given such  
5 terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States  
6 Code.

7 (4) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
8 mittees” means—

9 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of  
10 the House of Representatives;

11 (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
12 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

13 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
14 merce of the House of Representatives;

15 (D) the Committee on Armed Services of  
16 the Senate.

1 **SEC. 706 [log80339]. PILOT PROGRAM TO PREVENT**  
2 **PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN**  
3 **PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM MEMBERS OF**  
4 **THE ARMED FORCES AND COVERED BENE-**  
5 **FICIARIES.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
8 Defense shall establish a pilot program to assess the feasi-  
9 bility and effectiveness of providing, through military med-  
10 ical treatment facilities, covered prevention programs to  
11 pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces  
12 and covered beneficiaries.

13 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—To carry out the pilot pro-  
14 gram, the Secretary shall take the following steps:

15 (1) Integrate covered prevention programs into  
16 existing maternal or pediatric care or programming  
17 furnished through military medical treatment facili-  
18 ties, including—

19 (A) primary care;

20 (B) obstetric care;

21 (C) pediatric care; and

22 (D) family or parenting programs.

23 (2) Ease participation in covered prevention  
24 programs by pregnant and postpartum members of  
25 the Armed Forces and covered beneficiaries by—

1 (A) offering covered prevention programs  
2 at various times and locations; and

3 (B) providing child care to participants.

4 (3) Provide technical assistance regarding the  
5 implementation of covered prevention programs to  
6 personnel of military medical treatment facilities se-  
7 lected for the pilot program.

8 (4) Study the effectiveness of the pilot program  
9 in preventing the onset, or reducing the symptoms,  
10 of perinatal mental health conditions of pregnant  
11 and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and  
12 covered beneficiaries.

13 (c) LOCATIONS.—In selecting locations for the pilot  
14 program, the Secretary shall—

15 (1) select at least two military medical treat-  
16 ment facilities per market of the Defense Health  
17 Agency;

18 (2) select geographically diverse locations inside  
19 and outside the continental United States; and

20 (3) give priority to a military medical treatment  
21 facility that already operates a maternal health pro-  
22 gram or a Women's Clinic.

23 (d) PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary shall  
24 promote the pilot program to increase awareness and en-  
25 courage participation.

1 (e) REPORTS.—

2 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days  
3 after the end of each year of operation of the pilot  
4 program, the Secretary shall submit to the appro-  
5 priate congressional committees a report on the pilot  
6 program during such year of operation. Each such  
7 report shall include the number of pregnant and  
8 postpartum members of the Armed Forces and cov-  
9 ered beneficiaries who participate in the pilot pro-  
10 gram, disaggregated by—

11 (A) by type of prevention program;

12 (B) Armed Force;

13 (C) military occupational specialty, in the  
14 case of a member;

15 (D) rank;

16 (E) marital status;

17 (F) birth setting of delivery;

18 (G) sex;

19 (H) age;

20 (I) race; and

21 (J) ethnicity.

22 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than one year  
23 after the pilot program terminates, the Secretary  
24 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-

1       mittees, and publish, a final report. Such report  
2       shall include the following elements:

3               (A) The total number of participants, de-  
4               scribed in, and disaggregated as in, paragraph  
5               (1), during the term of the pilot program.

6               (B) The assessment of the Secretary  
7               whether the pilot program was effective in pre-  
8               venting the onset, or reducing the symptoms, of  
9               perinatal mental health conditions of pregnant  
10              and postpartum members of the Armed Forces  
11              and covered beneficiaries.

12              (C) The recommendations of the Secretary  
13              whether, and how (including with regards to  
14              cost), to expand or make permanent the pilot  
15              program.

16       (f) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-  
17       nate on September 30, 2028.

18       (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19              (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
20              mittees” means—

21                      (A) the Committee on Armed Services of  
22                      the House of Representatives;

23                      (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
24                      Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;  
25                      and

1 (C) the Committee on Armed Services of  
2 the Senate.

3 (2) The term “covered beneficiary” has the  
4 meaning given such term in section 1072 of title 10,  
5 United States Code.

6 (3) The term “covered prevention program”  
7 means an evidence-based activity that the Secretary  
8 determines has been proven to avert the onset, or  
9 decrease the symptoms, of a perinatal mental health  
10 condition.

11 (4) The term “military medical treatment facil-  
12 ity” means a facility described in section 1073d of  
13 title 10, United States Code.

14 (5) The term “perinatal mental health condi-  
15 tion” means a mental health disorder that first  
16 manifests during pregnancy or the one-year  
17 postpartum period.

1                   **Subtitle B—Health Care**  
2                   **Administration**

3   **SEC. 712 [log80415]. MANDATORY TRAINING ON HEALTH EF-**  
4                   **FFECTS OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLY-**  
5                   **FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**

6           The Secretary of Defense shall provide to each health  
7   care provider of the Department of Defense mandatory  
8   training regarding the potential health effects of  
9   perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

1 **SEC. 713 [log80534]. TREATMENTS FOR ACUTE RADIATION**  
2 **SYNDROME INCURRED BY OVERSEAS PER-**  
3 **SONNEL: PROCUREMENT; PRE-POSITIONING.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 Defense shall establish requirements for the procurement  
7 and pre-positioning of treatments for acute radiation syn-  
8 drome and thermal burns incurred by members of the  
9 Armed Forces assigned to duty locations outside the  
10 United States. In establishing such requirements, the Sec-  
11 retary shall take into account—

12 (1) the number of such members deployed in or  
13 near conflict zones wherein the use of nuclear weap-  
14 ons is a threat; and

15 (2) peer-reviewed and published scientific stud-  
16 ies regarding the efficacy and operational require-  
17 ments of such treatments.

18 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than September 30, 2025,  
19 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed  
20 Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a  
21 briefing regarding the requirements established under sub-  
22 section (a).

23 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) The term “biological product” has the  
25 meaning given such term in section 319F–1 of the  
26 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6a).

1           (2) The term “device” and “drug” have the  
2           meaning given such terms in section 201 of the Fed-  
3           eral Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

4           (3) The term “treatment” means a biological  
5           product, device, or drug approved, licensed, cleared,  
6           or otherwise authorized by the Food and Drug Ad-  
7           ministration.

1 **SEC. 714 [log80519]. PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVILIAN ORGA-**  
2 **NIZATIONS FOR ARTHROSCOPIC SURGICAL**  
3 **TRAINING.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 Defense shall establish a program—

7 (1) to establish partnerships with public, pri-  
8 vate, and non-profit entities that provide short-term  
9 training, regarding arthroscopic surgery, to physi-  
10 cians of the Department of Defense; and

11 (2) to increase operational readiness of mem-  
12 bers of the covered Armed Forces.

13 (b) METRICS.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
14 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish  
15 metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

16 (c) BRIEFING; REPORT.—

17 (1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 120  
18 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
19 Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed  
20 Services of the Senate and the House of Representa-  
21 tives a report on the program under this section.  
22 Such report shall include the following elements:

23 (A) A description of the program.

24 (B) The metrics established under sub-  
25 section (b).

1 (C) Other matters regarding the program  
2 that the Secretary determines appropriate.

3 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days  
4 after the termination of the program under this sec-  
5 tion, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees  
6 on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of  
7 Representatives a report on the program. Such re-  
8 port shall include the following elements:

9 (A) A list of the entities with which the  
10 Secretary established partnerships under the  
11 program.

12 (B) The assessment of the Secretary of the  
13 effectiveness of the program, based on criteria  
14 including—

15 (i) the metrics established under sub-  
16 section (b);

17 (ii) physical health assessment data,  
18 including questions on the Electronic Phys-  
19 ical Health Assessment survey;

20 (iii) physical readiness test data;

21 (iv) postoperative survey data col-  
22 lected after a musculoskeletal intervention;  
23 and

24 (v) other matters regarding the pro-  
25 gram determined by the Secretary.

1 (C) The assessment of the Secretary re-  
2 garding how much money the program saved  
3 the Department.

4 (D) Recommendations of the Secretary for  
5 additional legislation or administrative action  
6 based on the program.

7 (d) TERMINATION.—The program under this section  
8 shall terminate five years after the Secretary establishes  
9 such program.

10 (e) COVERED ARMED FORCE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
11 tion, the term “covered Armed Force” means the Army,  
12 Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force.

1       **Subtitle C—Studies, Briefings,**  
2       **Reports, and Other Matters**

3       **SEC. 721 [log80533]. BLAST PRESSURE SAFETY AND BRAIN**  
4       **HEALTH.**

5       (a) EXPANSION OF WARFIGHTER BRAIN HEALTH  
6       INITIATIVE.—

7               (1) THRESHOLDS FOR BLAST PRESSURE SAFE-  
8       TY.—Section 735 of the James M. Inhofe National  
9       Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023  
10      (Public Law 117–263; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is  
11      amended, in subsection (b)(1)—

12               (A) in subparagraph (B)—

13                       (i) by striking the period at the end  
14                       and inserting “that—”; and

15                       (ii) by adding at the end the following  
16                       new clauses:

17                               “(i) cover brain injury, lung injury,  
18                               and impulse noise;

19                               “(ii) measure impact over 24-hour,  
20                               72-hour to 96-hour, monthly, annual, and  
21                               lifetime periods;

22                               “(iii) ensure that the thresholds are  
23                               low enough that they are not associated  
24                               with cognitive deficits after firing;

1 “(iv) include thresholds that account  
2 for the firing of multiple types of heavy  
3 weaponry and use of grenades in one pe-  
4 riod of time;

5 “(v) include minimum safe distances  
6 and levels of exposure for observers and in-  
7 structors; and

8 “(vi) include limits for shoulder-fired  
9 heavy weapons.”;

10 (B) by inserting, after subparagraph (G),  
11 the following new subparagraphs:

12 “(H) The establishment of policies to en-  
13 courage members of the armed forces to seek  
14 support for brain health when needed, prevent  
15 retaliation against such members who seek care,  
16 and address other barriers to seeking help for  
17 brain health, including due to the impact of  
18 blast exposure, blast overpressure, traumatic  
19 brain injury, and other health matters.

20 “(I) The evaluation of how modifications  
21 to existing weapons systems may reduce inju-  
22 ries to individuals within the minimum safe dis-  
23 tance of such weapons systems that arise from  
24 blast overpressure in the use of such weapons  
25 systems.”.

1           (2) DEFINITIONS.—Such section is further  
2           amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting the  
3           following:

4           “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5           “(1) The term ‘neurocognitive assessment’  
6           means a standardized cognitive and behavioral eval-  
7           uation using validated and normed testing per-  
8           formed in a formal environment that uses specifi-  
9           cally designated tasks to measure cognitive function  
10          known to be linked to a particular brain structure or  
11          pathway, which may include a measurement of intel-  
12          lectual functioning, attention, new learning or mem-  
13          ory, intelligence, processing speed, and executive  
14          functioning.

15          “(2) The term ‘traumatic brain injury’ means a  
16          traumatically induced structural injury or physio-  
17          logical disruption of brain function as a result of an  
18          external force that is indicated by new onset or  
19          worsening of at least one of the following clinical  
20          signs immediately following the event:

21                  “(A) Alteration in mental status, including  
22                  confusion, disorientation, or slowed thinking.

23                  “(B) Loss of memory for events imme-  
24                  diately before or after the injury.

1           “(C) Any period of loss of or decreased  
2           level of consciousness, observed or self-reported.

3           “(3) The term ‘Secretary concerned’ has the  
4           meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10,  
5           United States Code.”.

6           (3) ANNUAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION DOCU-  
7           MENTS.—Such section is further amended, in sub-  
8           section (c), by striking “fiscal years 2025 through  
9           2029” and inserting “fiscal years 2025 through  
10          2030”.

11          (4) IMPLEMENTATION OF THRESHOLDS.—Such  
12          section is further amended—

13                 (A) by striking subsections (e) and (f);

14                 (B) by redesignating subsections (c), (d),  
15                 and (g) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respec-  
16                 tively; and

17                 (C) by inserting, after subsection (b), the  
18                 following new subsections:

19          “(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THRESHOLDS.—

20                 “(1) DEADLINE.—

21                         “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two  
22                         years after the date of the enactment of the  
23                         National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
24                         Year 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall iden-  
25                         tify and disseminate the thresholds for blast ex-

1           posure and blast overpressure safety and associ-  
2           ated emerging scientific evidence required under  
3           subsection (b)(1)(B).

4           “(B) UPDATE.—Not less frequently than  
5           every five years, the Secretary of Defense shall  
6           review and, if the Secretary determines it ap-  
7           propriate, update, the thresholds for blast expo-  
8           sure and blast overpressure safety and associ-  
9           ated emerging scientific evidence required under  
10          subsection (b)(1)(B).

11          “(2) CENTRAL REPOSITORY.—Not later than  
12          two years after the date of the enactment of the Na-  
13          tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
14          2025, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a cen-  
15          tral repository of blast-related characteristics, such  
16          as pressure profiles and common blast loads associ-  
17          ated with specific systems and the environments in  
18          which they are used, that is available to members of  
19          the armed forces and includes the information de-  
20          scribed in subsection (b)(1)(B).

21          “(3) WAIVERS.—

22                 “(A) PROTOCOLS.—Not later than two  
23                 years after the date of the enactment of the  
24                 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
25                 Year 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall es-

1           tablish and implement protocols to require waiv-  
2           ers in cases in which members of the armed  
3           forces must exceed the safety thresholds de-  
4           scribed in subsection (b)(1)(B), which shall in-  
5           clude a justification for exceeding those safety  
6           thresholds.

7           “(B) TRACKING SYSTEM.—

8           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than  
9           two years after the date of the enactment  
10          of the National Defense Authorization Act  
11          for Fiscal Year 2025, the Secretary of De-  
12          fense shall establish a Department of De-  
13          fense-wide tracking system for waivers de-  
14          scribed in subparagraph (A), which shall  
15          include data contributed by each of the  
16          Secretaries concerned.

17          “(ii) REPORT.—Not later than De-  
18          cember 31 of each of the five years begin-  
19          ning in the year following the establish-  
20          ment of the tracking system required  
21          under clause (i), the Secretary of Defense  
22          shall submit to the Committees on Armed  
23          Services of the Senate and the House of  
24          Representatives a report on waivers de-

1           scribed in subparagraph (A) that in-  
2           cludes—

3                   “(I) the number of waivers  
4                   issued, disaggregated by armed force;  
5                   “(II) the justifications provided  
6                   for each waiver;

7                   “(III) a description of actions  
8                   taken by the Secretary concerned to  
9                   track the health effects on members of  
10                  the armed forces of exceeding safety  
11                  thresholds described in subsection  
12                  (b)(1)(B), document those effects in  
13                  medical records, and provide care to  
14                  those members; and

15                  “(IV) a description of the med-  
16                  ical care received by those members in  
17                  response to exceeding these safety  
18                  thresholds.

19       “(d) FORMAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—

20           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
21       shall ensure that training described in paragraph (2)  
22       is required for members of the armed forces before  
23       training, deployment, or entering other environments  
24       determined to be high-risk by the Secretary con-  
25       cerned.

1           “(2) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—Training de-  
2       scribed in this paragraph is training on the fol-  
3       lowing:

4           “(A) Thresholds for blast exposure and  
5       blast overpressure safety and associated emerg-  
6       ing scientific evidence required under subsection  
7       (b)(1)(B).

8           “(B) Symptoms of exposure to blasts or  
9       blast overpressure.

10          “(C) Symptoms of traumatic brain injury.

11       “(e) STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION AND PREVEN-  
12       TION OF BLAST EXPOSURE AND OVERPRESSURE RISK  
13       FOR HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS.—In carrying out the Initia-  
14       tive, not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
15       ment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
16       Year 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall establish strate-  
17       gies for mitigating and preventing blast exposure and blast  
18       overpressure risk for individuals most at risk for exposure  
19       to high-risk training or high-risk occupational activities,  
20       which shall include—

21           “(1) a timeline and process for implementing  
22       those strategies;

23           “(2) a determination of the frequency with  
24       which those strategies will be updated, at a rate of  
25       not less frequently than every five years; and

1           “(3) an assessment of how information regard-  
2           ing those strategies will be disseminated to such in-  
3           dividuals, including after those strategies are up-  
4           dated.

5           “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 31,  
6           2025, and not less frequently than annually thereafter  
7           through 2030, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to  
8           the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the  
9           House of Representatives a report that includes the fol-  
10          lowing:

11           “(1) A description of the activities taken under  
12           the Initiative and resources expended under the Ini-  
13           tiative during the prior fiscal year.

14           “(2) The number of members of the armed  
15           forces impacted by blast overpressure and blast ex-  
16           posure in the prior fiscal year, including—

17           “(A) the number of members who reported  
18           adverse health effects from blast overpressure  
19           or blast exposure;

20           “(B) the number of members exposed to  
21           blast overpressure or blast exposure;

22           “(C) the number of members who received  
23           treatment for injuries related to blast over-  
24           pressure or blast exposure, including at facili-

1           ties of the Department of Defense and at facili-  
2           ties in the private sector;

3           “(D) regarding treatment for blast expo-  
4           sure, blast overpressure, or subconcussive or  
5           concussive brain injuries at the National In-  
6           trepid Center of Excellence, an Intrepid Spirit  
7           Center, or an appropriate military medical  
8           treatment facility—

9           “(i) the number of members on the  
10          waitlist for such treatment;

11          “(ii) the average period of time those  
12          members are on that waitlist; and

13          “(iii) the average number of days be-  
14          tween when an appointment is requested  
15          and the actual appointment date; and

16          “(E) the type of care that members receive  
17          from facilities of the Department of Defense  
18          and the type of care that members receive from  
19          facilities in the private sector.

20          “(3) A summary of the progress made during  
21          the prior fiscal year with respect to the objectives of  
22          the Initiative under subsection (b).

23          “(4) A description of the steps the Secretary is  
24          taking to ensure that activities under the Initiative

1 are being implemented across the Department of  
2 Defense and the military departments.”.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF ROLES FOR COMPONENTS  
4 OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RE-  
5 LATING TO BRAIN INJURIES FROM CONCUSSIVE AND  
6 SUBCONCUSSIVE BLASTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
8 shall establish the roles and responsibilities of com-  
9 ponents of the Office of the Secretary of Defense for  
10 the mitigation, identification, and treatment of con-  
11 cussive and subconcussive brain injuries and the  
12 monitoring and documentation of blast overpressure  
13 exposure as follows:

14 (A) The Under Secretary of Defense for  
15 Personnel and Readiness shall be responsible  
16 for, not later than one year after the date of  
17 the enactment of this Act—

18 (i) establishing a baseline  
19 neurocognitive assessment to be conducted  
20 during the accession process of members of  
21 the Armed Forces before the beginning of  
22 training;

23 (ii) establishing neurocognitive assess-  
24 ments to monitor the cognitive function of  
25 such members to be conducted—

1 (I) at least every three years as  
2 part of the periodic health assessment  
3 of such members; and

4 (II) as part of the post-deploy-  
5 ment health assessment of such mem-  
6 bers;

7 (iii) ensuring all neurocognitive as-  
8 sessments of such members, including  
9 those required under clauses (i) and (ii),  
10 are maintained in the electronic medical  
11 record of such member;

12 (iv) establishing a process for annual  
13 review of blast overpressure exposure and  
14 traumatic brain injury logs for each mem-  
15 ber of the Armed Forces during the peri-  
16 odic health assessment of such member for  
17 cumulative exposure in order to refer mem-  
18 bers with recurrent and prolonged expo-  
19 sure to specialty care; and

20 (v) establishing standards for recur-  
21 rent and prolonged exposure.

22 (B) The Assistant Secretary of Defense for  
23 Readiness shall be responsible for, not later  
24 than one year after the date of the enactment  
25 of this Act, the following:

1 (i) Establishing and maintaining blast  
2 overpressure exposure logs and traumatic  
3 brain injury logs for every member of the  
4 Armed Forces.

5 (ii) Including in those logs at least the  
6 following:

7 (I) The number of previous expo-  
8 sures to blast overpressure, including  
9 the number of exposures per unit of  
10 time, date, blast overpressure in  
11 pounds per square inch, and number  
12 of times the member of the Armed  
13 Forces fires, uses, or is exposed to  
14 weapons that cause blast over-  
15 pressure.

16 (II) Any residual physical, men-  
17 tal, or emotional effects resulting from  
18 such exposure.

19 (III) The source of the exposure,  
20 activity when the exposure occurred,  
21 whether it occurred during training or  
22 deployment, and any other relevant  
23 context of such exposure.

1 (IV) The treatment that the  
2 member sought and received in con-  
3 nection with such exposure.

4 (V) The number of concussive  
5 and subconcussive brain injuries, in-  
6 cluding traumatic brain injuries, sus-  
7 tained.

8 (VI) The severity of concussive  
9 and subconcussive brain injuries, in-  
10 cluding traumatic brain injuries, sus-  
11 tained.

12 (VII) Other head trauma, regard-  
13 less of whether it requires the treat-  
14 ment of a medical provider.

15 (C) The Inspector General of the Depart-  
16 ment of Defense shall be responsible for—

17 (i) not later than two years after the  
18 date of the enactment of this Act, submit-  
19 ting to Congress a report (in unclassified  
20 form, but with a classified annex as nec-  
21 essary) evaluating the establishment and  
22 maintenance of the logs required under  
23 subparagraph (B), including the cumu-  
24 lative exposure annotated in the blast over-  
25 pressure exposure logs and traumatic brain

1 injury logs, as well as the compliance of  
2 the Department of Defense with Depart-  
3 ment policies to address the brain health of  
4 members of the Armed Forces;

5 (ii) beginning on the date that is three  
6 years after the date of the enactment of  
7 this Act—

8 (I) evaluating the continued ful-  
9 fillment by the Department of the re-  
10 quirements under subparagraph (B),  
11 including the cumulative exposure an-  
12 notated in the blast overpressure ex-  
13 posure logs and traumatic brain in-  
14 jury logs, as well as the compliance of  
15 the Department with Department  
16 policies to address the brain health of  
17 members of the Armed Forces; and

18 (II) not later than December 31  
19 of each year 2025 through 2030, sub-  
20 mitting to Congress a report (in un-  
21 classified form, but with a classified  
22 annex as necessary) containing the re-  
23 sults of such evaluation.

24 (2) COORDINATION.—The officials specified in  
25 paragraph (1) shall coordinate and align their plans

1       and activities to implement such subsection among  
2       themselves and with the Secretaries of the military  
3       departments.

4           (3) BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS.—

5               (A) IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.—Not  
6       later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
7       ment of this Act, and annually thereafter  
8       through 2030, the Secretary of Defense shall  
9       provide to the Committees on Armed Services  
10      of the Senate and House of Representatives a  
11      briefing on the plans, associated timelines, and  
12      activities conducted to implement paragraph  
13      (1).

14           (B) REPORT ON CONCUSSIVE AND SUB-  
15      CONCUSSIVE BRAIN INJURIES.—

16               (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
17      days after the date of the enactment of  
18      this Act, and annually thereafter through  
19      2030, the Secretary of Defense shall sub-  
20      mit to the Committees on Armed Services  
21      of the Senate and House of Representa-  
22      tives a report on—

23                   (I) concussive and subconcussive  
24                   brain injuries caused during military  
25                   operations, including combat oper-

1                   ations, among members of the Armed  
2                   Forces, including information on—  
3                               (aa) the Armed Force of the  
4                               member;  
5                               (bb) the name of the oper-  
6                               ation;  
7                               (cc) the location within the  
8                               area of responsibility;  
9                               (dd) the number of concus-  
10                              sive and subconcussive brain in-  
11                              juries caused;  
12                              (ee) the severity of concus-  
13                              sive and subconcussive brain in-  
14                              juries caused;  
15                              (ff) the treatment received  
16                              for a concussive or subconcussive  
17                              brain injury;  
18                              (gg) whether a member of  
19                              the Armed Forces was medically  
20                              retired from service due to a con-  
21                              cussive or subconcussive brain in-  
22                              jury;  
23                              (hh) whether a member of  
24                              the Armed Forces died by suicide

1 after sustaining a concussive or  
2 subconcussive brain injury; and

3 (ii) the source of the injury,  
4 including the activity conducted  
5 when the injury occurred; and

6 (II) concussive and subconcussive  
7 brain injuries caused during training  
8 events among members of the Armed  
9 Forces, including information on—

10 (aa) the Armed Force of the  
11 member;

12 (bb) the type of training;

13 (cc) the location of the  
14 training;

15 (dd) the number of concus-  
16 sive and subconcussive brain in-  
17 juries caused;

18 (ee) the severity of concus-  
19 sive and subconcussive brain in-  
20 juries caused;

21 (ff) the treatment received  
22 for a concussive or subconcussive  
23 brain injury;

24 (gg) whether a member of  
25 the Armed Forces was medically

1 retired from service due to a con-  
2 cussive or subconcussive brain in-  
3 jury;

4 (hh) whether a member of  
5 the Armed Forces died by suicide  
6 after sustaining a concussive or  
7 subconcussive brain injury; and

8 (ii) the source of the injury,  
9 including the activity conducted  
10 when the injury occurred.

11 (ii) FORM.—Each report submitted  
12 under clause (i) shall be submitted in un-  
13 classified form, but may include a classi-  
14 fied annex.

15 (C) REPORT ON DISCHARGES RELATED TO  
16 CONCUSSIVE AND SUBCONCUSSIVE BRAIN INJU-  
17 RIES.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
19 days after the date of the enactment of  
20 this Act, and annually thereafter through  
21 2030, the officials specified in paragraph  
22 and the Secretary of Defense shall submit  
23 to the Committees on Armed Services of  
24 the Senate and House of Representatives a  
25 report on members of the Armed Forces

1           who were discharged administratively or  
2           punitively and had a concussive or sub-  
3           concussive brain injury, including a trau-  
4           matic brain injury, including information  
5           on—

6                       (I) whether the injury or injuries  
7                       occurred during combat operations or  
8                       training and the associated combat  
9                       operations or training incident;

10                      (II) the severity of the injury or  
11                      injuries;

12                      (III) if any such injury was com-  
13                      bat related, the name of the oper-  
14                      ation;

15                      (IV) the treatment sought and  
16                      received for the injury or injuries;

17                      (V) the number of discharge up-  
18                      grade requests in connection with  
19                      such an injury or injuries that have  
20                      been made; and

21                      (VI) the number of such dis-  
22                      charge upgrade requests that have  
23                      been approved.

24                      (ii) FORM.—Each report submitted  
25                      under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted

1 in unclassified form, but may include a  
2 classified annex.

3 (D) REPORT ON MEDICAL PROVIDERS  
4 TRAINED IN CONCUSSIVE AND SUBCONCUSSIVE  
5 BRAIN INJURIES.—Not later than 180 days  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and  
7 annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense  
8 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Serv-  
9 ices of the Senate and House of Representatives  
10 a report on medical providers within the De-  
11 fense Health Agency who are trained in trau-  
12 matic brain injury or concussive and subconcus-  
13 sive brain injuries as a sub-specialty of neu-  
14 rology, including information on—

15 (i) the number of such providers,  
16 disaggregated by location;

17 (ii) the billets of such personnel;

18 (iii) the number of medical personnel  
19 currently participating in training or a fel-  
20 lowship relating to traumatic brain injury  
21 or concussive and subconcussive brain inju-  
22 ries; and

23 (iv) the strategy of the Department of  
24 Defense to increase the number of medical  
25 providers trained in traumatic brain injury

1 or concussive and subconcussive brain inju-  
2 ries as a sub-specialty of neurology.

3 (c) MANDATORY TRAINING ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF  
4 CERTAIN BRAIN TRAUMA.—Not less frequently than once  
5 every two years, the Secretary of Defense shall provide  
6 to each medical provider and training manager of the De-  
7 partment of Defense mandatory training with respect to  
8 the potential health effects of blast overpressure, blast ex-  
9 posure, and traumatic brain injury.

10 (d) IMPLEMENTATION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REC-  
11 OMMENDATIONS TO MANAGE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY  
12 CARE.—

13 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than Decem-  
14 ber 31, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall imple-  
15 ment the recommendations contained in the report  
16 of the Inspector General of the Department of De-  
17 fense titled, “Evaluation of the DoD’s Management  
18 of Traumatic Brain Injury” (DODIG-2023-059).

19 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than April 1, 2025,  
20 the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Com-  
21 mittee on Armed Services of the Senate and the  
22 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-  
23 resentatives a briefing on the progress of the Sec-  
24 retary in carrying out the implementation required  
25 under paragraph (1).

1 (e) GAO REVIEW OF BLAST-RELATED BRAIN INJURY  
2 RESEARCH AND OTHER EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT  
3 OF DEFENSE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
5 the United States shall conduct a review of the re-  
6 search and other efforts of the Department of De-  
7 fense on traumatic brain injury, including injuries  
8 related to blast overpressure or blast exposure.

9 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The review  
10 required by paragraph (1) shall include the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 (A) A description of the research con-  
13 ducted by the Department of Defense on trau-  
14 matic brain injury, the entities involved in that  
15 research, and efforts to coordinate that research  
16 internally and externally.

17 (B) A description of any improvements  
18 identified by that research related to the pre-  
19 vention, diagnosis, and treatment of blast-re-  
20 lated brain injuries and an assessment of the  
21 implementation of those improvements.

22 (C) An evaluation of the efforts of the De-  
23 partment to protect members of the Armed  
24 Forces from retaliation for seeking care for the  
25 prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of traumatic

1 brain injury, blast overpressure, or blast expo-  
2 sure, including any gaps in or barriers to those  
3 efforts.

4 (D) An evaluation of the list maintained by  
5 the Department of the military occupational  
6 specialties most at-risk for blast overpressure  
7 and blast exposure and whether additional at-  
8 risk occupational specialties should be included.

9 (E) Any other finding the Comptroller  
10 General considers relevant.

11 (3) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—Not later than  
12 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
13 the Comptroller General shall brief the Committees  
14 on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of  
15 Representatives, and the Committee on Transpor-  
16 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Represent-  
17 atives, on the review required by paragraph (1), with  
18 a report to follow on a mutually agreed upon date.

19 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms  
20 “neurocognitive assessment” and “traumatic brain in-  
21 jury” have the meanings given such terms in section 735  
22 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization  
23 Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 10 U.S.C.  
24 1071 note), as amended by this section.

1 **SEC. 915 [log80556]. CODIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF**

2 **CORPS OF THE NAVY.**

3 (a) CODIFICATION.—Section 8090 of title 10, United  
4 States Code, is amended, in subsection (a)—

5 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and”;

6 (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-  
7 graph (9); and

8 (3) by inserting, after paragraph (4), the fol-  
9 lowing new paragraphs:

10 “(5) the Supply Corps;

11 “(6) the Civil Engineer Corps;

12 “(7) the Nurse Corps;

13 “(8) the Medical Service Corps; and”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such section is fur-  
15 ther amended, in subsection (b)(1), by striking “Medical  
16 Corps, the Dental Corps, the Judge Advocate General’s  
17 Corps, and the Chaplain Corps” and inserting “staff corps  
18 specified in subsection (a)”.

1 **SEC. 1101. [LOG 80502] EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR**  
2 **NONCOMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS OF MILI-**  
3 **TARY SPOUSES BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 573(e) of the John S.  
5 McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
6 Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 5 U.S.C. 3330d note)  
7 is repealed.

8 (b) EXTENSION AND REPORT.—Section 1119 of the  
9 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024  
10 (Public Law 118–31) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (d), by striking “December  
12 31, 2028” and inserting “December 31, 2033”; and

13 (2) by adding after subsection (d) the following:  
14 “(e) REPORTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
16 the date of the enactment of this subsection and  
17 each year thereafter until the sunset date in sub-  
18 section (d), the Secretary of Defense shall—

19 “(A) submit a report to the congressional  
20 defense committees on the use of the hiring au-  
21 thority under section 3330d of title 5, United  
22 States Code; and

23 “(B) publish such report on the public  
24 website of the Department of Defense.

25 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under para-  
26 graph (1) shall include information on—

1 “(A) how often such authority is used by  
2 agencies;

3 “(B) what positions are filled using such  
4 authority, and the grade and locations of such  
5 positions;

6 “(C) the number of military spouse appli-  
7 cants seeking positions under such authority  
8 who were not selected and the grade and loca-  
9 tions of such positions; and

10 “(D) how often Department of Defense  
11 components exercised exceptions to spouse pref-  
12 erence procedures and the grade and locations  
13 of such positions.”.

14 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1119(a) of the Na-  
16 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
17 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amended—

18 (A) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) by striking “(2)” and all that fol-  
20 lows through “the following:” and inserting  
21 the following:

22 “(2) in subsection (a)—

23 “(A) by redesignating paragraph (5), as  
24 added by section 1112(a)(1)(C) of this Act, as  
25 paragraph (6); and

1 “(B) by inserting after paragraph (4), as  
2 redesignated by section 1112(a)(1)(A) of this  
3 Act, the following:”; and

4 (ii) in the quoted material, by striking  
5 “(4) The term” and inserting “(5) The  
6 term”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (3)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
9 graph (A), by inserting “, as amended by  
10 section 1112(a)(2) of this Act” after “in  
11 subsection (b)”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
13 “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph  
14 (2)”;

15 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
16 “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph  
17 (3)”;

18 (iv) in subparagraph C), in the quoted  
19 material, by striking “(3) a spouse” and  
20 inserting “(4) a spouse”.

21 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
22 by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in  
23 the enactment of section 1119 of the National De-  
24 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Pub-  
25 lic Law 118–31).

1 **SEC. 1102. [LOG 80509] EXTENSION OF LIVING QUARTERS**  
2 **ALLOWANCE TO CIVILIAN DOD EMPLOYEES**  
3 **STATIONED IN GUAM.**

4 Section 1102 of the National Defense Authorization  
5 Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**DE-**  
8 **PARTMENT OF THE NAVY CIVILIAN EMPLOY-**  
9 **EES ASSIGNED TO PERMANENT DUTY IN GUAM**  
10 **FOR PERFORMING WORK, OR SUPPORTING**  
11 **WORK BEING PERFORMED, ABOARD OR DOCK-**  
12 **SIDE, OF U.S. NAVAL VESSELS”** and inserting  
13 **“CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
14 **OF DEFENSE STATIONED IN GUAM”**;

15 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “Secretary of  
16 the Navy” and inserting “Secretary of Defense”;  
17 and

18 (3) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
19 lows:

20 “(b) COVERED EMPLOYEE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
21 tion, the term ‘covered employee’ means any civilian em-  
22 ployee of the Department of Defense whose permanent  
23 duty station is located in Guam.”.

1 **SEC. 1103. [LOG 80762] ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHOR-**  
2 **ITY TO WAIVE ANNUAL LIMITATION ON PRE-**  
3 **MIUM PAY AND AGGREGATE LIMITATION ON**  
4 **PAY FOR FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES**  
5 **WORKING OVERSEAS.**

6 Subsection (a) of section 1101 of the Duncan Hunter  
7 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009  
8 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4615), as most recently  
9 amended by section 1102 of the James M. Inhofe National  
10 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public  
11 Law 117–263), is further amended by striking “through  
12 2024” and inserting “through 2025”.

1 **SEC. 1104. [LOG 80764] ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF TEM-**  
2 **PORARY AUTHORITY TO GRANT ALLOW-**  
3 **ANCES, BENEFITS, AND GRATUITIES TO CI-**  
4 **VILIAN PERSONNEL ON OFFICIAL DUTY IN A**  
5 **COMBAT ZONE.**

6 Paragraph (2) of section 1603(a) of the Emergency  
7 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global  
8 War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public  
9 Law 109–234; 120 Stat. 443), as added by section 1102  
10 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization  
11 Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat.  
12 4616) and as most recently amended by section 1109 of  
13 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
14 2024 (Public Law 118–31), is further amended by strik-  
15 ing “2025” and inserting “2026”.

1 **SEC. 1106. [LOG 80347] WAIVER OF LIMITATION ON AP-**  
2 **POINTMENT OF RECENTLY RETIRED MEM-**  
3 **BERS OF ARMED FORCES TO DOD COMPETI-**  
4 **TIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3326 of title 5, United  
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**cer-**  
8 **tain**” before “**positions**”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
11 by striking “the civil service” and inserting  
12 “the excepted service or the Senior Executive  
13 Service”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “for the  
15 purpose” and all that follows through “Manage-  
16 ment”; and

17 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “, or the au-  
18 thorization and approval, as the case may be,”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
20 at the beginning of subchapter I of chapter 33 of such  
21 title is amended in the item relating to section 3326 by  
22 inserting “certain” before “positions”.

1           **Subtitle C—Other Matters**

2   **SEC. 1421[Log 80498]. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES FOR**  
3                   **FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT OF JOINT DE-**  
4                   **PARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF**  
5                   **VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEM-**  
6                   **ONSTRATION FUND FOR CAPTAIN JAMES A.**  
7                   **LOVELL HEALTH CARE CENTER, ILLINOIS.**

8           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1704(e) of the National  
9   Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public  
10   Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2573), as most recently amended  
11   by section 104 of division E of the Continuing Appropria-  
12   tions and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023  
13   (Public Law 117–180, 136 Stat. 2137), is amended by  
14   striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September  
15   30, 2025”.

16          (b) AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Of the  
17   funds authorized to be appropriated for section 1405 and  
18   available for the Defense Health Program for operation  
19   and maintenance, \$162,500,000 may be transferred by the  
20   Secretary of Defense to the Joint Department of Defense—  
21   Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Dem-  
22   onstrations Fund established by subsection (a)(1) of sec-  
23   tion 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for  
24   Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571).  
25   For purposes of subsection (a)(2) of such section 1704,

1 any funds so transferred shall be treated as amounts au-  
2 thorized and appropriated specifically for the purpose of  
3 such a transfer.

4 (c) USE OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—For the pur-  
5 poses of subsection (b) of such section 1704, facility oper-  
6 ations for which funds transferred under subsection (b)  
7 of this section may be used are operations of the Captain  
8 James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting  
9 of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the  
10 Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities  
11 designated as a combined Federal medical facility under  
12 an operational agreement covered by section 706 of the  
13 Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for  
14 Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500).

1 **SEC. 1422[Log 80769]. ELIGIBILITY OF SPACE FORCE OFFI-**  
2 **CERS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON ARMED FORCES**  
3 **RETIREMENT HOME ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

4 (a) SPACE FORCE CHIEF PERSONNEL OFFICER.—

5 Section 1502(5) of the Armed Forces Retirement Home  
6 Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 401(5)) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at  
8 the end;

9 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period  
10 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
12 paragraph:

13 “(F) the Deputy Chief of Space Operations  
14 for Human Capital of the Space Force.”.

15 (b) SPACE FORCE SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFI-  
16 CER.—Section 1502(6) of such Act (24 U.S.C. 401(6)) is  
17 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-  
18 graph:

19 “(F) The Chief Master Sergeant of the  
20 Space Force.”.

1 **SEC. 1423[Log 80972]. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**  
2 **TIONS FOR ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT**  
3 **HOME.**

4 There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fis-  
5 cal year 2025 from the Armed Forces Retirement Home  
6 Trust Fund the sum of \$69,520,000 of which—

- 7 (1) \$68,520,000 is for operating expenses; and  
8 (2) \$1,000,000 is for capital maintenance and  
9 construction.

1 **SEC. 3534 [log80538]. POLICIES REGARDING TRAINING OF**  
2 **CERTAIN VETERANS IN THE STATE MARITIME**  
3 **ACADEMIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-  
6 portation shall revise—

7 (1) section 310.3(c)(1) of title 46, Code of Fed-  
8 eral Regulations, to waive the minimum period of  
9 training at a State maritime academy for a veteran  
10 who—

11 (A) was honorably discharged from an  
12 Armed Force; and

13 (B) has a bachelor's degree; and

14 (2) the Federal Curriculum Standards for Mer-  
15 chant Marine Officers Training Program so a vet-  
16 eran described in paragraph (1) may receive training  
17 at a State maritime academy without being required  
18 to obtain a second bachelor's degree.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “State maritime academy” has  
21 the meaning given such term in section 51102 of  
22 title 46, United States Code.

23 (2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given  
24 such term in section 101 of title 38, United States  
25 Code.

# **DIRECTIVE REPORT LANGUAGE**

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## **DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### **TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY**

#### **ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

All-Volunteer Force

The committee recognizes that the military services continue to struggle with recruiting an All-Volunteer Force and that the trend lines for the military services recruiting appear unfavorable. The military services continuing to miss recruiting targets may lead to lower recruiting goals, end-strength reductions, and fewer troops available for combat. The committee recognizes that there are multiple contributing causes of the recruiting crisis and that these must be further examined.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2025, examining the causes of the recruiting crisis and recommending possible solutions to reverse declining recruitment and support force retention. This report shall specifically examine the following matters:

- (1) modernizing accession standards and methods, to include potential new pathways into service and new approaches to handling medical standards for accession;
- (2) current efforts to improve physical and academic qualifications of prospective recruits;
- (3) assessment of methods to increase the propensity to serve;
- (4) new methods to affect the influences of prospective recruits; and
- (5) any other recruiting issues the Secretary considers relevant.

#### Army Criminal Investigation Division Training at Fort Leonard Wood

The committee appreciates and supports the Army's commitment to correct the organizational shortcomings of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) identified by the Fort Hood Independent Review. The committee recognizes that CID is an essential element of the military police and retains critical military operational missions. Given CID's combat support mission, CID must maintain expertise in conducting criminal and military investigations in combat and operational theaters and must possess investigative skills beyond U.S. civilian settings. However, the committee is concerned about training resources and professional military education for uniformed CID agents, particularly as the Department of the Army considers changes in the overall Army Force Structure. As such, the committee firmly believes it is vital that the Department of the Army maintain its professional CID training courses for uniformed personnel at Fort Leonard Wood.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, outlining the future for training uniformed and civilian CID agents at Fort Leonard Wood. The report should include the following:

- (1) the number of agents over the last five years that have attended training at Fort Leonard Wood and the number of agents over the last five years

that have attended training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC);

(2) the curriculum for uniformed and civilian CID agents at Fort Leonard Wood;

(3) the curriculum for uniformed and civilian CID agents at FLETC;

(4) the training capacity at Fort Leonard Wood and at FLETC;

(5) the advanced courses available at Fort Leonard Wood for CID agents and other military services;

(6) the plan to continue and/or expand advanced training courses at Fort Leonard Wood; and

(7) the number of agents that attend advanced courses at Fort Leonard Wood over the last five years and the projected attendance for the next two years.

### Army Force Structure Impacts on Basic Combat Training

The committee is concerned about the impacts of planned force structure changes on the Army's initial entry training and basic combat training throughput at the Army's four basic combat training installations. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services no later than January 31, 2025, on the impacts Army Force Structure changes may have on the basic combat training and initial entry training throughput at the Army's four basic combat training installations. The report should include the following:

(1) the feasibility of expanding basic training at specific locations as force structure changes decrease the number of Soldiers attending initial entry training at, for example, Fort Leonard Wood, MO; and

(2) specific military occupational specialty categories that could attend basic combat training at an installation geographically closer to their advanced initial training installations, such as military intelligence soldiers (35 series) and medical specialty soldiers (68 series).

### Assessment of Central and South American War Colleges

The committee recognizes that many partner war colleges in Central and South America present opportunities to partner with U.S. professional military education institutions for mutual benefit. Central and South American war colleges would benefit from stronger professional military education programs, including to counter influence from Russia and China as well as to promote human rights, rule of law, and democracy. To that end, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, on the resources and authorities needed to address support provided by U.S. professional military education institutions to their Central and South American counterparts.

## Briefing on Closer Collaboration Between Air Force Institute of Technology and National Aeronautics and Space Administration on Space-Related Education

The committee notes that the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) provides the Department of the Air Force with advanced, multi-disciplinary academic education, as well as technical and professional continuing education. The committee is aware that AFIT has a long history of offering subjects related to space and aerospace; AFIT claims 30 astronauts among its alumni. In the recent past, AFIT has partnered with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to offer courses of instruction to NASA employees. With the establishment of the Space Force, AFIT's focus is expected to increase space-related educational opportunities. The committee notes many AFIT space-related offerings would be valuable to NASA employees and that it could be beneficial to revive and expand the AFIT-NASA partnership to provide cost-effective options to meet NASA's educational requirements.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the NASA Administrator, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than July 30, 2025, on a path forward to increase opportunities to advance educational partnerships between AFIT and NASA, including specific recommendations for AFIT and NASA to establish more formal relations, leading to more NASA employees enrolling in AFIT course offerings and adding synergist gains in cross-over work projects.

## Comprehensive Review of Status of Forces Agreements

The committee notes that in section 1229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) the conferees directed the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to review the legal protections afforded by bilateral agreements between the United States and specified countries and how the rights and privileges afforded under these agreements may differ from United States law. The committee recognizes this review is ongoing and awaits the results of this review. The committee remains concerned that members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in each foreign country with bilateral agreements are afforded, at a minimum: (1) a right to counsel for his or her defense in accordance with bilateral agreements or other binding law or agreement with another state; (2) access to competent language translation services; (3) a right to a prompt and speedy trial; (4) to be confronted with the witnesses against him or her; and (5) to have a compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his or her favor if they are within the state's jurisdiction.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, a briefing detailing the findings of the review, and any recommendations that the Secretaries concerned must address. The brief should include:

(1) an assessment of the legal protections afforded by the reviewed bilateral agreements between the United States and each specified country, and how the rights and privileges afforded under these agreements may differ from U.S. law;

(2) whether the legal protections afforded by the reviewed bilateral agreements provide members of the Armed Forces who are stationed in said country, and the spouses and dependents of such members who are covered by the agreements, with the right to legal counsel; access to competent language translation services; a prompt and speedy trial; the right to be confronted with witnesses against the member, spouse, or dependent; and a compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in favor of the member, spouse, or dependent if the witness is located in the jurisdiction of the country;

(3) an evaluation of each specified country's compliance with the legal protections stipulated in the reviewed bilateral agreements, highlighting any instances of material non-compliance;

(4) mechanisms to address any discrepancies between the identified legal protections provided under the reviewed bilateral agreements and those guaranteed under U.S. law;

(5) mechanisms to address and rectify instances where each specified country failed to materially comply with the legal protections outlined in the reviewed bilateral agreements;

(6) recommended timelines for implementing any necessary corrective actions; and

(7) any other recommendations that may be deemed relevant to improve the alignment of legal protections afforded under the reviewed bilateral agreements with U.S. law.

For recommendations or items requiring corrective action as part of the assessment, the committee further directs the Secretary of Defense to coordinate and provide a briefing to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 1, 2026.

### Comptroller General Review of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Allegations in Relation to Classified Circumstances

The committee is concerned about instances in which reports of sexual harassment or sexual assault may remain unaddressed, such as by dismissal of court-martial charges or other disposition short of a full investigation and prosecution, because aspects of the offenses alleged involved one or more individuals assigned to classified duties, or during an activity or at a location whose specifics are classified.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review on matters related to sexual assault and sexual harassment allegations made under circumstances in which there is a connection to one or more classified locations or activities, or individuals assigned to classified duties. The review should include:

(1) the processes used by the military services to account for issues surrounding classified information that might impact the investigation and prosecution of criminal allegations, to include the ways in which such allegations may be fully investigated and prosecuted despite the presence of classified information, and the alternatives, should such investigation and prosecution not be possible;

(2) the extent to which training materials and education cover the reporting of sexual assault and sexual harassment allegations in the classified information context; and

(3) the extent to which information is available regarding the number of instances in each military service in which an investigation or prosecution of an allegation of sexual harassment or sexual assault was incapable of processing to the conclusion it might otherwise have been, due to an association with classified information.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on the status of the review not later than April 1, 2025, with a report to follow not later than December 1, 2025.

#### Comptroller General Study of National Guard Bureau Staffing for Freedom of Information Act Requests

The committee is concerned about the existing staffing structure of the National Guard Bureau related to the receipt, processing, and fulfillment of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and how it may impact timeliness and accuracy in its administration of such requests.

The volume of FOIA requests submitted to the National Guard Bureau has steadily increased since fiscal year 2020 and has been administered by an understaffed office, resulting in extended wait times to fulfill FOIA requests. Additionally, in fiscal year 2021 the National Guard Bureau FOIA office was removed from the purview of the National Guard Bureau General Counsel and housed independently with no fixed legal support. The committee is concerned that understaffing, an increased number of cases, and an absence of legal oversight may be contributing factors to the National Guard Bureau FOIA Office experiencing a severe backlog of cases.

To better understand the staffing needs of the National Guard Bureau, address the volume of incoming cases and the existing backlog, and restore public confidence in the National Guard Bureau's FOIA process the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the staffing needs of the National Guard Bureau to administer its responsibilities related to FOIA requests, which shall, at a minimum include the following:

(1) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has established policies and processes for responding to FOIA requests;

(2) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has mechanisms in place to oversee timeliness goals and compliance with procedures, policies, regulations, and the law;

(3) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has conducted a staffing analysis to determine its personnel needs for managing its FOIA program;

(4) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has identified any organizational gaps or challenges associated with oversight of the FOIA program; and

(5) any other matters the Comptroller General deems appropriate.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings and present final results in a format and timeframe agreed to at the time of the briefing

### Department of Defense and Service Academy Research Partnerships

The committee notes that the Department of Defense's basic research initiatives enable development in emerging technologies that provide transformational military capabilities necessary to maintain our advantage. Given that colleges and universities perform more than half of the Department of Defense-sponsored basic research it is imperative that academic institutions have the funding and relationships within the Department needed to conduct cutting-edge basic research of importance. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, assessing the Department's ability to work in partnership with the service academies, including:

(1) the percentage of Department-sponsored basic research that is being conducted at service academies;

(2) the extent to which Defense Innovation Unit and other innovation entities across the Department are utilizing service academy-conducted research to address the challenges of the future;

(3) the number of service academy-researched projects which have become programs of record; and

(4) the extent to which the Department provides full or partial funding for research conducted at service academies.

### Feasibility of Establishing a Consortium on the Modernization of Professional Military Education

The committee understands the need to continue to modernize professional military education (PME) that better responds to emergent threats in multiple domains and disciplines brought about by Great Power Competition. The committee believes that advancing the ability to strategize and respond to long-term

contingency planning and crisis operations requires curricula that is flexible, incorporates applied design and military innovation education, and creates coherency between the military services, the Defense Department, academia, and industry. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, on the feasibility of establishing a consortium on PME modernization. In assessing the feasibility of such a consortium, the report should include an assessment of the following:

(1) the ability of current curriculum standards and designs to respond to crises and emergent global threats;

(2) means to improve military education and develop common, applied-design curriculum for institutions of military education;

(3) establishing curricula that can be adopted across institutions of military education that is responsive to new opportunities and multidomain challenges and geared towards applied design and innovation;

(4) the feasibility and advisability of making permanent the curriculum of the Master of Science in Applied Design for Innovation at the Naval Postgraduate School and replicating the curriculum at the participating institutions of the consortium;

(5) means to foster integration of academic departments and improve interoperability between the military services and subject matters;

(6) existing academic partnerships between institutions of PME and civilian institutions, including scopes, purposes, and lengths of such partnerships;

(7) any research, curriculum development, collaborations, or sharing of faculty or students between institutions; and

(8) the ability of institutions of PME to host meetings between civilian institutions and students at all levels of classification.

#### Feasibility Study on the Implementation of Army Future Soldier Prep Course Curriculum in National Guard Youth Challenge Programs

The committee recognizes the value of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program (NGYCP) in instilling at-risk youth, ages 15 – 18, with values, life skills, and self-discipline needed to succeed as productive citizens. Since its inception in 1993, the NGYCP has produced over 200,000 graduates from dozens of States across the nation, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. However, a 2023 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau have not established program-wide performance goals and measures and have not implemented a standardized curriculum. Given the success of the Department of the Army's Future Soldier Preparatory Course, the committee believes that the Future Soldier Preparatory Course curriculum could benefit the NGYCP. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the Secretary of the Army, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on

Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2025, on the feasibility of implementing the Department of the Army's Future Soldier Preparatory Course academic and physical curriculums in NGYCP. The report should include detailed cost estimates, staffing demands, facility accommodation requirements, and advertising and marketing needs to implement such curriculum.

### Future Soldier Prep Course

The committee applauds the Department of the Army for establishing the Future Soldier Preparatory Course in 2022 as a recruiting tool to help America's youth overcome academic and physical fitness barriers to meet or exceed the Army's accession standards. The committee supports the Army's efforts and the goals of this program to provide America's youth with the resources they need to meet service standards. The committee is encouraged by the Navy's efforts to mirror this program and urges the other military services to evaluate their recruitment needs and work to adopt and implement similar programs as authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024.

To continue monitoring the success of the Future Soldier Prep Course, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services by January 31, 2025. The report shall include:

- (1) an assessment of the servicemember's experience, in terms of retention, to include illustrating data on the program's long-term effectiveness;
- (2) an analysis of how the Army's plan to build from the current momentum of this course, including the effectiveness of servicemembers sharing their experience to inspire more recruits;
- (3) an assessment of plans to expand the program; and
- (4) any additional information the Secretary deems appropriate.

### Mentoring and Career Counseling Program Report

The committee recognizes that, pursuant to section 656 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense was required to develop and implement a plan to accurately measure the Department's efforts to achieve a dynamic, sustainable level of members of the armed forces that is reflective of the U.S. population eligible to serve, with a mentoring and counseling program to advance such efforts. To better understand the Department's progress on the development and implementation of this plan and program, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the plan, including the following:

- (1) the established metrics to measure the success of the Department's efforts and the mentoring and counseling program;

- (2) the rate of officer participation in the mentoring and counseling program, broken down by service;
- (3) outreach efforts to officers about the mentoring and counseling program; and
- (4) any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of both the plan and the mentoring and counseling program.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2025, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings and present final results in a format and timeframe agreed to at the time of the briefing.

### MyNavy HR Modernization

The committee is aware of the urgency of the MyNavy HR modernization program. The committee has been informed of personnel experiencing delays related to pay, retirement, and other benefits critical to morale and readiness. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2025. The briefing should include the following:

- (1) information on the designation of leaders for MyNavy HR modernization and requirements;
- (2) projected funding needs for MyNavy HR modernization;
- (3) a plan for how the Navy will ensure data integrity across the MyNavy HR modernization effort, including, but not limited to, an analysis of the costs and benefits to creating a new centralized platform; and
- (4) identification of potential commercial-off-the-shelf solutions that will be incorporated into the MyNavy HR architecture.

### Policy Implementation Analysis of Military Community and Family Policy

The committee notes that Department of Defense policies have a diverse impact on servicemembers and their families depending on military assignment, location, and military rank. As a result, the committee believes the impacts of policies that directly affect the quality of life of servicemembers and their families should be assessed for their impact at individual installations. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to assess all policies currently in effect under the purview of the Office of Military Community and Family Policy related to Children, Youth, and Families, all child care programs and eligibility and all child and youth services programs and eligibility and provide an initial briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 1, 2025, addressing the Department's plan and milestones to conduct this review. The Secretary of Defense will provide a briefing on the completed review by April 1, 2025. The briefing should include the following:

(1) the name, the effective date, and all subsequent dates of updates of each policy under the purview of Military Community and Family Policy that remain in effect as it relates to child care eligibility and programs;

(2) an analysis of whether the policy is still necessary;

(3) a randomized assessment of how Department-level policies impact local installations in terms of how they meet the needs of servicemembers and their families as it relates to child care. The randomized assessment shall include at least 30 percent of OCONUS installations; and,

(4) for negative effects, the assessment should address how often exceptions to policy were used for each location surveyed, the outcome of the ETP requests; and whether policy changes, were being considered as patterns emerged.

### Report on Reservists with Specialized Skills

The committee notes the need to understand the specialized skills available to the joint force to continue the focus on great power competition. As such, the committee believes it is critical for the U.S. to maintain its global military and technological superiority and that the military departments must leverage the expertise and knowledge available from all service components.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, that addresses the following elements:

(1) how does the Department of Defense identify potential key professional fields and/or specialized skills that impact national security;

(2) how is the Department of Defense and the military departments recruiting top-tier specialized talent to serve in Reserve Components;

(3) how does the Department of Defense track the primary civilian occupation of those in the Reserve Components and who serve in key professional fields and/or possess specialized skills that impact national security;

(4) has the Department of Defense considered or taken steps to form a technical reservist unit that leverages industry expertise; and

(5) Any additional information the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate.

### Reservist Credit for e-Learning

The committee acknowledges the contributions of the Reserve Component of the United States Armed Forces to meet the challenges of the global security environment and support the mission of the total force. The committee recognizes that the Department of Defense has endeavored to support Reserve Component readiness by providing the military services flexibility to leverage technology and available resources for training, including the use of electronic-based distributed learning methods (EBDL). To understand the effectiveness of Reserve Component use of EBDL, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with

the Secretaries of the military services, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, on the following:

(1) whether annual drill limits have been established for EBDL, broken down by service;

(2) if such annual drill limits exist for EBDL, an assessment of whether such limits are sufficient to allow Reserve Component servicemembers to complete approved professional military education courses; and

(3) an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of increasing existing annual drill limits for EBDL.

### Sexual Assault Information Management System

The committee is aware of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program Office's use of the Army's Strategic Management System (SMS) performance management tool to report data from the Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Information Database (DSAID). The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) encouraged the Secretary of Defense to review the Department's and each military service's system for utilizing information from DSAID and how a common operating system may improve commanders' ability to monitor and tailor prevention programs across the Department. To date, the committee is not aware of any steps the Department has undertaken to comply with the committee's encouragement. The committee recognizes that the use of SMS allows military leaders at all levels of command to create uniform, centrally managed reports that allow for visibility into sexual harassment/assault conditions across the force. However, the committee is concerned that across the other military departments and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, no system of record is used to report data emanating from DSAID. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, on the following:

(1) an inventory of tools currently utilized across the military services that track sexual harassment/sexual assault data;

(2) an explanation of what data sources are used by DSAID when compiling comprehensive data calls, and what data visualization tools are currently used by the Department to identify possible solutions to help mitigate sexual harassment/sexual assault cases;

(3) an explanation of what steps would be necessary to incorporate a data analytics tool align objectives, actions, and metrics to sexual harassment/sexual assault mitigation goals and track success at meeting their mission priorities, goals, and outcomes; and

(4) highlight any authorities, technological challenges or resource-constraints that would prevent DSAID from incorporating a data analytics/data visualization tool.

## Study on Medical and Behavioral Health Care Screening and Response for Victims of Sexual Assault

The committee recognizes the improvements the Department of Defense has made to prevent sexual assault and to encourage greater reporting of sexually harmful behaviors. The Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, however, notes a concerning increase in the number of reports of sexual assault involving servicemembers as victims and/or subjects in fiscal year 2022 as compared to fiscal year 2021. Moreover, a 2023 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that several issues limit screening for and access to related medical and behavioral health care for victims of sexual assault.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2025, regarding medical and behavioral health care screening and response for victims of sexual assault, including:

(1) whether delays in medical examinations occurred following a reported sexual assault, including from a shortage of: sexual assault forensic evidence (SAFE) kits, Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examiners (SAMFE), or a certified health care provider trained to perform sexual assault forensic exams, or any other resource shortages for calendar years 2021, 2022 and 2023;

(2) any delays in processing of SAFE kits or any additional relevant data collected during the medical exam or any shortage of SAFE kits or other required testing or medical supplies necessary for the medical exam for the same time period as (1);

(3) recommendations for updates to procedural guidance for providing health care within the Military Health System for patients who are victims of a sexual assault, or any other offenses covered by sections 920, 920c, or 930 of title 10, United States Code, not otherwise included in annual reporting requirements to Congress;

(4) whether the Department's guidance on prioritization of care for patients associated with a sexual assault should be expanded to include victims of sexual harassment;

(5) an assessment of current guidance regarding how and when providers screen patients for and provide access to behavioral health care services for experiences with unwanted sexual behavior and efforts to improve current guidance; and

(6) any additional resources necessary to facilitate the proper care to victims of sexual assault seeking medical testing or care.

### Transition Assistance Program Interagency Coordination

An effective transition assistance program (TAP) is necessary to support readiness and the long-term sustainment of the All-Volunteer Force which is why Congress continues to maintain dutiful oversight on the implementation of recent

TAP reforms. In addition, to be effective, TAP must remain relevant and timely and provide the right resources to eligible servicemembers. Continual comprehensive program evaluation ensures that TAP evolves and is consistently effective in providing meaningful and effective support and services to transitioning servicemembers. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 31, 2025, on the number of agencies who participate in the various tracks available to transitioning servicemembers and what information is provided about the various programs they offer, such as Federal food and nutrition assistance programs, retraining programs, or one-on-one career counseling.

### United States Air Force Pilot Shortage Issue

The committee notes that the United States Air Force (USAF) flight training missions are essential, foundational, and directly impact combat readiness. The committee remains supportive of properly resourcing increased USAF flight training throughput. The committee is also concerned with how the Combat, Mobility, and Special Ops Air Forces pilot absorption will maintain the proper balance of experienced and inexperienced pilots, while increasing available flight hours to ensure Air Force aircrew are current, qualified, combat-mission ready.

To ensure the USAF is developing plans to partner with industry and increase undergraduate pilot training, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than January 31, 2025, on the advisability and feasibility to include a timeline for establishing a contractor-operated undergraduate pilot training program in calendar year 2025. In addition, the report should include recommended courses of action to address the Air Combat Command fighter pilot absorption challenge.

## TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Defense Community Support Program

The committee recognizes that military installations are closely integrated with local communities, with many military families now living off the installation. As a result, off-installation community programs, resources, and services have significant impacts on quality of life and readiness for military families. The committee acknowledges the effectiveness of the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) in addressing deficiencies in community infrastructure, supportive of a military installation. While DCIP provides infrastructure and public works related services, it does not support or improve access to community-based resources and organizations. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military services, to provide a

briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, that includes:

(1) an overview of existing Department programs that connect military families with local community resources and organizations related to quality of life priorities such as education, counseling and mental health care, child care, housing, workforce development, and spousal employment; and

(2) the feasibility and advisability of establishing a grant program similar to DCIP that supports local community resources and organizations, including improving the availability and quality of education, counseling and mental health care, child care, housing, workforce development, and spousal employment.

### Enlisted Medical Personnel Transition to Civilian Sector

The committee understands that during their service, Army Combat Medics, Air Force Medical Technicians, and Navy Hospital Corpsmen develop professional capabilities beyond those of a standard health care provider in the civilian sector. The committee also recognizes that, upon transitioning from Active Duty, these servicemembers possess emergency medical skills and capabilities that may be of great value to the civilian population. Therefore, the committee directs the Director of the Defense-State Liaison Office, in consultation with the Secretaries of military departments, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2025, on the following:

(1) current efforts to address the transferability and portability of enlisted medical skills as these servicemembers transition from the military;

(2) the utilization of the Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) program to obtain relevant certification such as those for emergency medical technicians;

(3) servicemember challenges in accessing the COOL program to obtain relevant certifications such as emergency medical technicians;

(4) the feasibility of requiring Active Duty military medics in each service branch to obtain National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Certification;

(5) a strategy to establish Memorandums of Understanding with States for expedited certification or licensure for military medics, technicians, or corpsmen upon their departure from the military, which may include providing civilian-oriented Emergency Medical Service training sufficient to meet State certification or licensure requirements, incorporating Emergency Medical Service providers in the Department's programs to provide real-world civilian work experiences through specific industry trainings, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service, and additional resources needed to carry out such a strategy;

(6) any federal or State barriers, resources, or challenges that complicate or impede this transition; and

(7) any additional information deemed necessary by the Director.

## Feasibility and Cost of Increasing Military Servicemember Outside Continental United States Permanent Change of Station Vehicle Shipping Allowance for Select U.S. States and Territories

The committee notes that the Joint Travel Regulations allow military servicemembers to ship only one privately owned vehicle in connection with an outside continental United States (OCONUS) permanent change of station (PCS) move. It is estimated that servicemembers can expect to spend approximately \$4,000 in non-reimbursable travel expenses on things such as rental cars while awaiting their privately owned vehicle (POV) in shipping. This places significant financial strain on military families, further stretching servicemembers with limited financial resources. Families with only one POV OCONUS face increased challenges getting and maintaining employment.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2025, that examines the impact of the one-vehicle policy on military servicemembers with dependents conducting OCONUS PCS moves to Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This report should include:

- (1) the extent to which the rate of unemployment for military spouses in Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands is affected by the one-vehicle policy;
- (2) the extent to which modifying the one-vehicle policy for OCONUS States and Territories would affect the Department's budget; and
- (3) whether adjusting the one-vehicle policy would increase retention in the Department.

### Long Island Basic Allowance for Housing Rates

The committee notes that Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates may not accurately reflect local economic costs across Long Island. As rental and housing prices have increased along with day-to-day expenses, the burden has increased on servicemembers and their families, affecting their overall quality of life. Therefore, the Secretary of Defense will submit a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2025, that closely examines the suitable rental properties and BAH rates in on Long Island. This briefing shall include:

- (1) the effect these increased costs are having on the servicemember and their families;
- (2) analysis of housing market: an in-depth analysis of housing market trends, rental rates, property values, and cost-of-living indices for various regions within Long Island, New York, including within a 5-mile radius of Coast Guard stations and other military bases, to ascertain the adequacy of current BAH rates in meeting housing needs. Results of the housing requirements and market analysis;

(3) suitability and availability of housing in the community that meets the needs of the military community;

(4) recommendations, if any, for potential redistricting of the Long Island, New York, BAH rates to better align with local housing market conditions within the 5-mile radius of Coast Guard bases, ensuring fair compensation for housing expenses for military personnel;

(5) the impact of housing supply and demand in the market area; and

(6) additionally, an assessment of the feasibility and potential benefits of incorporating Cost of Living Allowance adjustments alongside BAH rates to provide further support for military personnel stationed in high-cost areas throughout Long Island.

### National Guard and Reserve Component Transition Assistance Program

The committee notes the National Guard and Reserve Component servicemembers may have unique needs as they transition back to civilian life after a period of activation and that the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program may not be meeting their specific needs.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, that includes an evaluation of the following:

(1) how and when are transition assistance programs (TAP) communicated to National Guard and Reserve Component members;

(2) what topics are covered during TAP for National Guard and Reserve Component members;

(3) if and how the TAP for National Guard and Reserve Component members differ and why;

(4) the total number of members who attended TAP for the National Guard and Reserve Component;

(5) of those who attended, how many members had served less than 8 years of creditable federal service, between 8 to 19 years, or 20 years or more;

(6) does the Department measure the effectiveness of TAP for National Guard and Reserve Component members;

(7) does the Department measure the satisfaction of TAP National Guard and Reserve Component members; and

(8) any additional information the Secretary deems necessary.

### Report on Effectiveness of Family Child Care Provider Program

The committee recognizes the various challenges that military families currently face in finding affordable and available child care. For remote or isolated duty stations that are not supported by a Child Development Center (CDC), such as Creech Air Force Base, military families face the unique challenge of having to predominantly rely on family child care (FCC) providers to meet their child care

needs. While FCC providers provide quality, viable, home-based alternatives to center-based care, the committee is concerned about the availability of and certification process for FCC providers. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military services, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, on the following:

- (1) the number of certified FCC providers, broken down by installation;
- (2) the number of potential FCC providers that begin, but do not complete, the certification process, broken down by installation;
- (3) the effectiveness and value of the FCC program to mitigate child care provider shortages;
- (4) the number and a detailed list of installations without CDCs who must rely on FCCs or the community for child care services; and
- (5) ways in which the Department has explored expanding the FCC program.

#### Sheppard Air Force Base Basic Allowance for Housing

The committee is aware that the cost of living has increased dramatically over the last few years. This has presented significant challenges for servicemembers who are permanently stationed or training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. As rental and housing prices have increased along with day-to-day expenses, the burden has increased on servicemembers and their families, affecting their overall quality of life. The unique population of training personnel at Wichita Falls adds to housing fluctuations in that many rentals have shorter lengths with higher turnover rates, resulting in issues for the location's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rate. The committee notes that the BAH rate for Wichita Falls is one of the lowest in the state of Texas.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2025, that closely examines the suitable rental properties and BAH rates in North Texas, and Wichita Falls specifically. This briefing shall include:

- (1) the effect these increased costs are having on the servicemember and their families;
- (2) the plan for how to address these issues;
- (3) results of the housing requirements and market analysis;
- (4) suitability and availability of housing in the community that meets the needs of the military community; and
- (5) the impact of housing supply and demand in the market area.

#### Standardized Testing at Department of Defense Education Activity Schools

The committee is aware of concerns regarding the amount of time Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school students are spending to meet standardized testing requirements. A 2023 report from the United States

Government Accountability Office found that DoDEA students spend more time on standardized tests than their public school counterparts, at times having to complete unnecessary tests or tests required only at DoDEA schools. The committee recognizes that DoDEA has taken steps to identify and address redundancies in standardized tests across its schools through the Balanced Assessment System Working Group. To better understand the effectiveness of the Department's efforts to reduce standardized testing redundancies, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, on the following:

(1) DoDEA's implementation plan for the recommendations from the Balanced Assessment Working Group, including: information about how progress will be tracked and reviewed, how stakeholders will be involved, a list of identified standardized testing and requirements redundancies, plans for eliminating identified redundancies, and plans to reduce the number of standardized testing days for DoDEA students to better reflect the average of similar public school districts; and

(2) The feasibility and advisability of conducting an annual review of DoDEA standardized testing requirements.

#### Tuition Assistance Effectiveness

The committee recognizes that Tuition Assistance (TA) is a valuable recruitment, retention, and readiness tool within the military. Each year, 200,000-300,000 servicemembers use the TA program to access opportunities for education and professional development, benefiting both servicemembers and the branches they serve. When the Department of Defense provides opportunities through TA, servicemembers dedicate their personal time to professional development and continue to serve while advancing their education. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military services, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2025, on the effectiveness of the Department's TA programs in helping servicemembers meet their educational goals. The report should include the following information:

(1) the percentage of servicemembers that are paying out-of-pocket costs above current semester hour rates, broken down by service;

(2) whether current semester hour rates are sufficient in light of tuition inflation;

(3) the percentage of servicemembers that requested TA at the annual TA ceiling for the last three fiscal years, broken down by service;

(4) the number of degrees and credentials awarded for the last three fiscal years, broken down by service;

(5) an assessment of whether factors such as the type of degree or credentialing program, type of educational institution (public or private), or in-

person vice virtual education impact completion of degree and credentialing programs;

(6) a list of the top ten degrees and credentials awarded in the last three fiscal years;

(7) the feasibility of a requirement to cover other educational costs, such as travel, books or other course materials in TA; and

(8) any efforts to maximize the benefits of TA programs to servicemembers and the military.

### Tuition Assistance for the Air National Guard

The committee recognizes that the Air National Guard provides an invaluable service to communities across the nation and performs critical missions alongside their Active Duty counterparts. Given the recruiting challenges facing our military, the committee believes that a strong tuition assistance program must be in place for the Air National Guard to continue to recruit and retain the best of America. Therefore, to better assess the effectiveness of current educational assistance programs available to the Air National Guard, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2025, on the following:

(1) tuition assistance programs currently available to Air National Guard members, including eligibility requirements; and

(2) the feasibility and advisability of establishing a permanent program to provide tuition assistance to members of the Air National Guard, regardless of duty status.

## TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Access to Applied Behavior Analysis in the Department of Defense's Autism Care Demonstration

The committee continues to hear from military families and military family advocates about access to applied behavior analysis (ABA) services provided under the Department of Defense Autism Care Demonstration (ACD). Section 737 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81) directed an independent analysis of the ACD by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. While the study is currently underway, the committee wants to ensure there is an adequate network of ACD providers, especially ABA providers, available to all military families needing such services.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, on the total number of unique ABA providers (by provider level) from the most recent 90-day

period of complete data, the total number of beneficiaries participating in the ACD with a verified referral in that same time period, and the total number of beneficiaries waiting, including reasons for waiting for ABA services, from the most recent 90-day period of complete data.

### Autism Research on Females

The committee is concerned about recent studies suggesting that females are underdiagnosed with autism or misdiagnosed with other conditions. The committee is also aware that participatory research on autism leads to more accurate data, trust between researchers and participants, and more robust and sustainable findings. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by April 1, 2025, on the following with regards to autism research in the Department of Defense:

- (1) the current state of participatory research on autism, and to what extent there is an effort to determine if females are being underdiagnosed with autism;
- (2) the rates females are diagnosed with autism in comparison to males, broken out by age and beneficiary category;
- (3) any potential career impacts to female servicemembers should they be underdiagnosed as an adult; and
- (4) any recommendations to improve research, policies, or resources dedicated to autism research or support services.

### Availability of Automated External Defibrillators

The committee commends the Department of Defense for expanding the efforts to screen recruits, cadets, and midshipmen for cardiac issues with an electrocardiogram as they enter military service. The committee is concerned, however, that a study by leading military cardiologists stated that 108 of the 126 non-traumatic sudden deaths in the military were related to exercise, and more than half of the cases demonstrated a clearly identifiable cardiac abnormality at autopsy. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretaries of the Military Departments to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2025, which includes the following:

- (1) the number of sudden cardiac arrest events that occurred in Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023;
- (2) a breakout of the conditions under which these events occurred amongst servicemembers;
- (3) an assessment of the availability of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at physical training tests, obstacle courses, and other areas where servicemembers are conducting physically strenuous training; and
- (4) a timeline for deploying AEDs to locations where servicemembers conduct routine strenuous physical training, if not currently available.

## Department of Defense Cooperation with Not-For-Profit Biomedical Research Institutions

The committee notes the unique role that private, not-for-profit biomedical research institutions play in a number of the Department of Defense's medical research programs. As the Department is among the United States' largest federal sponsors of biomedical research, the relationships the Department maintains with these non-profit institutions are critical for the success of research goals. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 31, 2024, on:

(1) a breakdown of steps and outreach the Department is taking to work with small and emerging laboratories for development, analysis, and the exchange of bioinformatics and related data; and

(2) the Department's assessment of future collaboration opportunities with these types of laboratories in order to accelerate bioinformatic technological development and research.

## Dialysis-Like Therapeutics Use and Requirements

The committee understands that infection remains a major concern when dealing with combat injuries, and the risk to injured servicemembers could be compounded by the complexities of medical logistics in a potential future conflict. Portable blood filtration products have demonstrated an ability to treat infectious disease by efficiently extracting known and unknown pathogens from the bloodstream. These dialysis-like therapeutics, particularly those with portable and shelf-stable capabilities, have applications in operating conditionings where access to care and life-saving antibiotics may be more challenging.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Armed Services Committee not later than February 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of using portable dialysis-like therapeutics at forward operating bases or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions for treating infections, removing toxins from the blood, and preventing sepsis. The brief should include any obstacles to acquisition and requirements for such items.

## Gaps in Writings on U.S. Navy Medicine History

The committee acknowledges that the history of U.S. Navy Medicine is rich and complex, and that many areas are yet to be explored by historians. The committee encourages and supports collaboration between historians and the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide an unclassified briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, that lists any identified unclassified gaps in the existing canon of U.S. Navy Medicine history to better enable historians' efforts to more holistically document the past.

## Human Performance Policy Requirements

The committee is aware of the rapidly evolving field of human performance science and appreciates the Department's report of July 24, 2023, on "The Use of Fitness Wearables to Measure and Promote Readiness." The Department should continue to embrace efforts in integrating modern human performance techniques to enhance the health, resilience, and well-being of servicemembers. These efforts extend beyond physical training to encompass nutrition, sleep monitoring, and mental health interventions.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to brief the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025 on the extent to which the Department is adopting a holistic human performance approach. The report should include:

- (1) how the Department is addressing any inconsistencies across the military services on the adoption and data collection of wearable devices;
- (2) how the Department measures the effectiveness of these human performance efforts and ensures appropriate policy oversight;
- (3) the role data collection plays, if any, in enabling commanders to identify physiological and psychological changes within the servicemember;
- (4) how the Department is integrating comprehensive strength and conditioning programs that are aligned with unit missions;
- (5) how the Department is ensuring access to performance nutrition to enhance readiness, including widespread nutrition education; and
- (6) any other information the Secretary deems relevant.

## Impact of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps on the Military Health System

The committee understands the Defense Health Agency (DHA) continues to face challenges in recruiting and retaining civilian personnel to support both headquarters operations and military treatment facilities (MTFs) around the globe. The United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps is one of the nation's uniformed services — a branch committed to the service of health. Currently, the USPHS Commissioned Corps has over 160 officers performing roles within DHA; 85 officers are performing clinical roles and 77 are performing administrative roles. Notably, 69 of the 85 officers performing clinical roles do so in the mental health profession.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, that examines the impact of the Department's partnership with USPHS and the feasibility of expanding the partnership in a way that provides more primary care and mental health care providers to DHA and/or MTFs. This report should include:

- (1) to what extent USPHS providers are currently impacting readiness and access to care with the Department;

(2) to what extent the USPHS could support more MTFs and fill vacant positions within DHA with current end strength;

(3) to what extent partnership expansion would have an impact on other USPHS missions and readiness and the Department's missions and readiness; and

(4) to what extent the Department would need to reimburse the USPHS as part of an interagency support agreement to increase the number of clinical roles within DHA.

### Improvements to Complex Wound Care

The committee recognizes the importance of exploring innovative approaches in tissue-based products for surgical and complex wound care. In a 2023 study published in *Military Medicine*, fish skin grafts were shown to be effective in the military context. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2025, on the following within the Defense Health Agency (DHA):

(1) a comprehensive inventory of tissue regeneration products for wound care and methodologies currently employed in DHA facilities;

(2) a summary outlining the stocks of tissue regeneration products within the medical stockpile, storage requirements for those products, supply chain limitations, surge capacity, and quantification of products lost to expiration or storage issues;

(3) a summary outlining the source materials of those products, the religious considerations when using those source materials, and the environmental impact of such materials;

(4) an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness and efficacy of adopting fish skin grafts compared to conventional methods;

(5) updates on ongoing research and development endeavors about tissue-based products for wound care, including fish skin grafts, within the DHA;

(6) insights into the training programs offered to medical personnel for the appropriate application and utilization of fish skin grafts; and

(7) information on existing research initiatives, collaborations, or partnerships with external entities to advance tissue-based technologies for wound care.

### Medical Qualifications for Accessions of Military Applicants

The committee is concerned that the Department of Defense's medical standards for appointment, enlistment, or induction into military service may not be taking into consideration decreasing societal stigma in seeking behavioral health services and may be negatively impacting the military services' ability to recruit individuals to serve. Despite increased awareness of how common – and treatable – most mental health issues are, a past diagnosis of depression, anxiety, or other disorders along with the medications to treat these disorders may disqualify a would-be recruit or require them to seek a waiver.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, assessing what treatments, conditions, and medications should be reevaluated to ensure a fair and reasonable pathway to accession to service. In the report the Department shall provide recommendations on policy revisions for military applicants related to mental health medications and treatments. Furthermore, the Department shall provide recommendations on ways to reduce processing delays for potential recruits who were prior dependents of servicemembers.

### Medical Research on Female Servicemembers

The percentage of women actively serving in all branches of the U.S. military has risen from 14.6 percent in 2005 to 17.5 percent by 2022, an overall increase of 20 percent and a total of nearly 229,000 members. As a result, the committee is interested in understanding Department of Defense efforts towards investing in the research of medical issues impacting women during their military careers. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, that examines to what extent the Department is conducting research related specifically to women's health. The brief should include to what extent this research is focused on perimenopause, menopause, and/or post-menopause, and treatments for menopause-related symptoms. The brief should also include if there is any research related to the correlation of exposure to toxic chemicals during service, incidence of mental health diagnoses, and menopause-related symptoms.

### National Influenza Vaccine Modernization Strategy Implementation

The committee is aware that the Department of Defense intends to complete tasks agreed to under the implementation plan associated with the National Influenza Vaccine Modernization Strategy (NIVMS), including the evaluation of transitioning the Department's annual procurement of influenza vaccines to vaccines that are produced domestically and that are not produced with traditional egg-based manufacturing. The committee supports this decision and strongly encourages the Department to implement key tasks associated with NIVMS as expeditiously as is practicable. The committee believes the Department's efforts will provide servicemembers and their families with modernized influenza vaccines that offer greater efficacy than legacy vaccines, thereby enhancing individual medical readiness.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2025, that shall include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- (1) an update on the NIVMS implementation plan tasks agreed to by the Department and any obstacles to implementation;
- (2) a detailed timeline for when the Department expects to complete tasks agreed to by the Department in the NIVMS implementation plan;

(3) a budgetary assessment to determine the costs of implementing tasks agreed to by the Department in the NIVMS implementation plan and the associated accounts that will be required to execute implementation; and

(4) a market survey of domestically manufactured modernized influenza vaccines that meet the requirements set forth in NIVMS and a plan to maximize procurement of modernized influenza vaccines from domestic manufacturing sources.

### Obesity and Diabetes in the Military

The committee is concerned with the increased incidence of obesity and type II diabetes in Active Duty servicemembers. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report titled, “Unfit to Serve: Obesity is Impacting National Security” found that 19 percent of Active Duty servicemembers across all branches were considered obese in 2020, up from 16 percent in 2015. Obesity is a contributing factor to pre-deployment limiting conditions such as musculoskeletal injuries, excess health care utilization, and attrition in servicemembers and recruits. Data from the Military Health System further indicates an increased annual incidence of type II diabetes among Active Duty servicemembers. Finally, the committee is aware of existing clinical practice guidelines recommending knowledge and self-management skill-building activities for weight and diabetes management that can support the health and readiness of Active Duty servicemembers.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, on the following as it relates to Active Duty servicemembers:

- (1) current efforts to treat and or reverse obesity and type II diabetes;
- (2) programs and treatment options available for servicemembers diagnosed with type II diabetes, including non-pharmacologic therapies and education;
- (3) the percentage of servicemembers with type II diabetes that are controlled with medication, compared with those who reverse their diabetes and no longer require medication; and
- (4) information regarding remote patient monitoring (RPM) tools, including what types of RPM tools are available to servicemembers diagnosed with obesity and type II diabetes, the associated policies surrounding RPM tools, including the last time the policies were reviewed, an assessment of the capabilities of RPM tools, and the feasibility and advisability of offering RPM tools.

### Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Death by Suicide for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personnel

The committee understands that Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel perform critical, no-fail missions. A study titled, “Explosive ordnance disposal personnel in the U.S. military have higher risk of insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder: a large retrospective cohort study” was conducted in which a group of experts examined the risk of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and other disorders among EOD technicians compared to the population of Active Duty, non-EOD personnel. This study did not address death by suicide, which is an issue the committee remains committed to addressing.

In order to ensure the committee understands the full scope of the impact on EOD personnel, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2025, on the effects of PTSD, TBI, and death by suicide, specific to EOD personnel. The report shall include:

- (1) a review of suicide data specific to EOD personnel from the Department's Suicide Prevention Office for the last 5 years;
- (2) an assessment of any trends in PTSD and/or TBI in death by suicide in the EOD community;
- (3) recommendations for policies or initiatives that could improve health care for EOD personnel with specific regard to PTSD, TBI, and prevention of suicide;
- (4) ongoing efforts by the Department to provide support for EOD personnel; and
- (5) a detailed list of any additional resources that Congress could provide to support EOD personnel in an effort to reduce the frequency and the effects of PTSD, TBI, and death by suicide.

#### Special Education Legal Assistance in the Exceptional Family Member Program

The committee acknowledges the Department of Defense's efforts to standardize the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) across all military services pursuant to section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283). As part of this standardization, the military services expanded special education legal support for families of the EFMP and established standards for such legal support. However, the committee is concerned that discrepancies remain across the military services regarding the quality of legal assistance provided to EFMP families. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military services, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than July 1, 2025, on the following:

- (1) an assessment of the Department's oversight framework of the military services' legal support services for the EFMP;
- (2) the number of families that were referred to the American Bar Association Military and Veterans Legal Center and other pro bono legal assistance organizations for the last two fiscal years, broken down by military service;
- (3) the number of families that received legal assistance through such referrals;

(4) the feasibility of administering a customer satisfaction survey to EFMP families receiving military legal assistance services in order to measure program outcomes;

(5) an assessment of whether legal assistance outcomes for EFMP families are impacted by the type of attorney rendering legal assistance (civilian vice uniformed); and

(6) any other efforts to improve legal support for EFMP families.

#### Status of Staffing in Military Treatment Facilities Located in Rural Communities

The committee is concerned that staffing of medical providers in rural community military treatment facilities (MTFs) is not adequate to support the Defense Health Agency's goal of reattracting beneficiaries. Therefore, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2025, on the current and future status of staffing at MTFs located in rural and geographically isolated communities. The brief should include:

- (1) number of beneficiaries enrolled to each MTF;
- (2) staffing shortages by specialty;
- (3) a cost comparison of hiring an adequate number of staff to support providing care in the MTF versus sending beneficiaries for private sector care;
- (4) risks associated with staffing shortages;
- (5) recommendations to solve staffing shortages; and
- (6) any additional information the Secretary deems relevant.

#### Status Update on Department of Defense Program to Study Treatment of Certain Conditions Using Certain Psychedelic Substances

Section 723 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) established a Department of Defense program to study the effectiveness of psychedelic substances and plant-based therapies in treating post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries. The committee wants to ensure the establishment of the program is progressing without impediments. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than January 31, 2025, on the following with regards to the progress of the program:

- (1) the Department's process for funding eligible entities;
- (2) the Secretary's selection for lead administrator to carry out the program;
- (3) a list and description of the eligible entities that have been selected for the program;
- (4) how the Department notified and selected servicemembers to participate in the program;
- (5) how many servicemembers have requested participation in the program;
- (6) how many servicemembers have been selected for participation in the program;
- (7) any issues the Department is encountering establishing the program;

- (8) any anticipated delays to implementing the program; and
- (9) any other information the Secretary deems relevant.

### Supplemental Insurance Coverage to Active Duty and Reserve Component Servicemembers

The committee understands that supplemental health insurance can be helpful to cover expenses associated with unexpected illnesses. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, on the feasibility of providing no-cost supplemental medical insurance to members or family members of the Active and Reserve Components. The briefing should include the following:

- (1) an assessment of the need for such supplemental coverage, including any specific diseases or illnesses which are not covered by TRICARE;
- (2) which individuals could benefit from additional coverage;
- (3) the cost of providing this benefit broken down by beneficiary category;
- (4) a description of the contracting logistics associated with offering this benefit; and
- (5) any additional information the Secretary deems appropriate.

## TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### Child Care Development Center Employee Background Checks

The committee notes the importance of recruiting and retaining quality employees for Child Development Centers (CDC). The committee also notes that all employees of CDCs must undergo criminal background checks. The committee is concerned, however, that wait times required for background checks may negatively impact a potential employee's decision to work for CDCs. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 15, 2025, on the following:

- (1) information given to applicants on what is required of a background check and how long it may take;
- (2) the length of time to obtain a background check, including information on how wait-times have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (3) the percentage of applicants that pass the background check, including information on the number of applicants who decide to decline an offer from the Department of Defense due to the amount of time it took to obtain a background check;
- (4) primary reasons for failing the background check;

- (5) the number of people who conduct background checks, including information on the amount of people required to conduct the background checks in a timely manner, and if more staff is needed for this process by location;
- (6) ease of transferring background checks between CDCs and Department of Defense Education Activity Schools;
- (7) the possibility of constant vetting; and
- (8) solutions to facilitate a decrease in the amount of time needed for a background check.

### Next Generation of Civilian Leaders Programs

The recruitment and retention of the next generation of career civil servant leaders is critical to civilian oversight of the Department of Defense. Professional development programs and fellowships bring talented individuals with a wide range of skills, knowledge, experience, and expertise to the Department for short-term rotations that sometimes lead to permanent job offers. The John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellows Program, the Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF), and the Boren Fellowship are three pathways that recent graduates with advanced degrees can use to enter the Department of Defense for the first time. However, many challenges exist with recruiting and retaining these individuals beyond the tenure of their professional development fellowship.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with Secretaries of the Military Services, to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, detailing the recruitment and retention of these fellowship programs. The report should include:

- (1) the number of fellows entering the John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellows Program since its inception and their host organizations;
- (2) the number of fellows hired into the Department of Defense from the McCain Fellowship, PMF, and Boren Fellowship following their fellowship tenure's termination;
- (3) promotion pathways up to GS-15 and the Senior Executive Service available to McCain Fellows;
- (4) demographic details pertaining to each class of McCain Fellows; and
- (5) career development opportunities available to employees, including detail and secondment assignments to other agencies.