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06TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

INDIAN & INSULAR AFFAIRS
FEDERAL LANDS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT &
ACCOUNTABILITY

HEALTH CARE & FINANCIAL
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The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chair
Committee on Armed Services
2118 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
2118 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith,

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, thank you for the opportunity to share my priorities for the fiscal year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act.

I enjoyed the opportunity to testify before the committee last year, and am grateful for your partnership and leadership in including my legislation, the ANCHOR for Military Families Act, in the final fiscal year 2026 NDAA.

As a result, the more than 15,000 servicemembers, reservists, and their families who call my district home – & the millions across the country – will face a much smoother process in accessing housing and educational resources when undergoing a permanent change of station.

The DCIP Tribal Eligibility Act

Washington's 6th District is home to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Naval Base Kitsap, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Bremerton (formerly Naval Hospital Bremerton), and an Army Reserve Center in Tacoma.

There are also 12 federally recognized Tribal Nations in my district, some of whom have usual and accustomed lands that include and surround these military installations.

Partnerships between the Tribes, defense communities, and local installations have been critical for ensuring military readiness.

Yet Tribal governments are currently excluded from directly accessing Defense Community Infrastructure Program – also known as DCIP – funding.

The DCIP Tribal Eligibility Act

That's why I partnered with Subcommittee Chairman Wittman to introduce the Defense Community Infrastructure Program Tribal Eligibility Act to correct this longstanding inequity.

In my district, Tribal governments like the Suquamish Tribe work side-by-side with Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Naval Base Kitsap to support infrastructure, workforce, and regional stability.

These partnerships are operationally critical to mission success.

This bill allows Tribal governments to directly compete for DCIP grants, just as state and local governments do.

It ensures the communities supporting our military have access to the resources needed to do so effectively.

Tribal governments are already key contributors to our defense infrastructure.

Maintaining & expanding our defense infrastructure depends on strong partnerships with Tribes, and ensuring that we do everything we can to mitigate environmental and community impact on tribal citizens will only make us more successful.

That's why I respectfully urge the Committee to include the bipartisan DCIP Tribal Eligibility Act in the FY27 NDAA.

DCIP Funding for FY27

Relatedly, I also ask the Committee to increase the authorization for DCIP to meet continued demand and support military readiness.

DCIP strengthens readiness by investing in the infrastructure that servicemembers and their families rely on, schools, transportation, and essential services in defense communities.

But demand far exceeds available funding.

For example, in fiscal year 2020, 109 applications were submitted, but only 16 projects were funded.

More recently, \$90 million in fiscal year 2025 supported just 10 projects.

We desperately need to increase the authorized funding levels for this program to ensure more communities can meet infrastructure demands tied to military operations and support mission readiness.

Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs)

I'm concerned about continued reductions in health care services at Military Treatment Facilities, specifically at the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Bremerton – still called the Naval Hospital by all my neighbors

OB/GYN and inpatient mental health services have been eliminated, redirecting service members and their families to local community health care facilities – facilities struggling because of consolidation, vertical integration, and losses to federal funding.

Or they're sent to Madigan in Rep. Strickland's district. Which is near enough for some but a whole day's journey for others.

The closure of the ER and labor and delivery unit have similarly shifted demand onto civilian systems and delayed access to care.

Like so many communities across the country, we're a primary care desert, and all types of providers are struggling to keep their doors open.

Our health care crisis will only get worse as the Defense Health Agency diminishes and reduces services to beneficiaries and their families.

Forcing servicemembers and their families who are seeking specific health care services to overcome new and greater barriers to get that care goes against the enlistment contract they signed when they agreed to give their lives in support of our country.

We must stabilize and restore core services at MTFs, particularly in regions supporting large military populations – and I hope this is an issue the Committee prioritizes in the next NDAA.

Overtime rate for temporary duty overseas

Finally, I want to highlight the importance of including language in the NDAA to reinstate the overtime rate for civilian employees who are on temporary duty travel to support Naval carrier maintenance at overseas locations.

This provision ensures the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard's ability to effectively and efficiently staff overseas maintenance availabilities.

The current language was enacted for five years, and I ask the Committee to reinstate this provision for five more years.

If this language expires, it will hinder the shipyards' ability to hire and maintain employees in these vital roles.

Employees sent overseas put in long hours away from their families so that the Navy is able to complete its mission in the Pacific.

They're not on vacation, and they ought to be paid for their overtime

Closing

Thank you again for the opportunity to share these priorities.

I appreciate the Committee's work and the staff who support this process.

My team stands ready to assist as the FY27 NDAA moves forward and I look forward to continuing the conversation on these important topics.

In service of the hardworking people of Washington's 6th district,



Congresswoman Emily Randall
Washington's 6th District