Defense Policy With Democratic Principles

This first NDAA under the new Democratic majority secures a strong national defense built on democratic principles and advancing American values. The bill as reported out of committee underpins a smart defense posture with a tough stance on Russia and continued collaboration with allies, eliminates wasteful spending, promotes a more inclusive military by reinforcing the values of diversity, STEM and integration, and solidifies Congress’ oversight role of defense programs and the authorization to use of military force.

SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS

Puts our men and women in uniform first, by authorizing:
- Funding for a 3.1% military pay raise;
- Tenant bill of rights, protecting families in privatized military housing;
- $11.5 billion for military construction, family housing, and prior BRAC clean up activities;
- Doubles reimbursement amounts for spouse licenses and certification programs to $1,000;
- Additional $121.3 million to clean up perfluorinated (PFAS) chemicals in drinking water on/near military bases;
- Birth control parity to eliminate all cost-sharing for any contraception services obtained through TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select;
- Access to emergency contraception for sexual assault survivors at military treatment facilities; and
- A “safe-to-report” policy at military service academies, which allows sexual assault victims to report sexual assault without fear of discipline for minor collateral misconduct.

BUILDS STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

- Authorizes the most robust defense budget in history, at $733 billion, while cutting $17 billion in wasteful funding for projects not included in DoD’s original planning but later requested in the President’s budget, such as $7.2 billion in border wall funding.
- Redirects $8 billion from wasteful programs to those that will get our troops and military families the equipment and support they need.
- Reverses the Trump Administration’s soft stance on Russia by:
  - Authorizing $6.5 billion for the European Deterrence Initiative and;
  - Requiring briefings on Russian election interference and strategies to counter interference efforts in 2020;
  - Requiring a strategy to respond to Russian aggression in the Black Sea; and
  - Supporting European security and verification measures against Russia by prohibiting withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty.
- Requires continued collaboration in Asia to contain North Korean threat and prohibits troop reduction in South Korea below 28,000.
- Includes numerous provisions requiring DOD to plan for and respond to the affects of climate change.
- Responsibly establishes a Space Corps consistent with Democratic priorities, not POTUS requests: protects civilian DoD employees, prevents wasteful overhead growth, and ensures DoD space activities are improved.
Builds a defense enterprise that reflects our Democratic values, by requiring:

- A diversity and inclusion strategy from DoD to ensure minorities are more fully represented in the officer corps;
- DoD to update the workplace and equal opportunity & workplace and gender relations surveys to include experiences with supremacist activity, extremist activity, or racism;
- DoD to review all pertinent forms for racially insensitive terms and develop a modernization plan to address these issues;
- The Marine Corps to gender integrate basic training.

Promotes our values

- Prevents the President from diverting Defense funding to pay for unnecessary border wall.
- Prohibits funding for the deployment of new, low-yield nuclear missile warheads.
- Accelerates closure of Guantanamo Bay detention facility: prohibits new detainees & allows transfer of detainees to secure facilities in the United States.
- Protects DoD against cyber threats; assess supply chain risks in telecoms policies, services & equipment.
- Reforms acquisition policies with an increased emphasis on the software and personnel required to make acquisition efficient and cost-effective.
- Prohibits the transfer of an F-35 aircraft to Turkey unless they stop acquisition of the Russian S-400 air defense system.
- Maintains mechanism for DoD to make payments for damage, personal injury, or death that may be the result of the US combat operations in certain countries.

Creates a more inclusive military

- Implements strong Congressional oversight over the use of the military
  - Identifies legal and policy frameworks associated with each military engagement
  - Restricts military taskings with adverse readiness impacts (like the SW Border)
  - Includes stricter Congressional oversight of U.S. military activity in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.
- Updates DoD reporting requirements regarding civilian casualties reinforcing that our military operations are consistent with our values.
- Requires an annual audit to help identify waste in DoD and requires DoD to submit a plan for achieving an unmodified audit opinion within five years.
- Empowers contracting officers to get data needed to stop future price gouging by defense contractors with sole-source contracts.
- Includes aggressive oversight provisions regarding the cost and schedule of future upgrades to the F-15, F-35, and the future Air Force One.
- Supports competition in DoD space launch programs.

Ensures oversight & accountability

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