H.R. 7900—FY23 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

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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, 2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
<th>FY 2022 Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>Change from FY 2022 Authorized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>485,000</td>
<td>473,000</td>
<td>473,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>346,920</td>
<td>346,300</td>
<td>348,220</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USMC</td>
<td>178,500</td>
<td>177,000</td>
<td>177,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>329,220</td>
<td>323,400</td>
<td>323,400</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-5,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space Force</td>
<td>8,400</td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOD Total</td>
<td>1,348,040</td>
<td>1,328,300</td>
<td>1,330,220</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>-17,820</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 402—Revisions in Permanent Active Duty End Strength Minimum Levels

This section would establish new minimum Active Duty end strengths for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force as of September 30, 2023. The committee recommends 473,000 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Army, 348,220 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Navy, 177,000 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Marine Corps, 323,400 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Air Force, and 8,600 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Space Force.
### 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, 2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army National Guard</td>
<td>336,000</td>
<td>336,000</td>
<td>336,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserve</td>
<td>189,500</td>
<td>189,500</td>
<td>189,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Reserve</td>
<td>58,600</td>
<td>57,700</td>
<td>57,700</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps Reserve</td>
<td>36,800</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-3,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air National Guard</td>
<td>108,300</td>
<td>108,400</td>
<td>108,400</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force Reserve</td>
<td>70,300</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOD Total</td>
<td>799,500</td>
<td>794,600</td>
<td>794,600</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-4,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Guard Reserve</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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, 2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army National Guard</td>
<td>30,845</td>
<td>30,845</td>
<td>30,845</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserve</td>
<td>16,511</td>
<td>16,511</td>
<td>16,511</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Reserve</td>
<td>10,293</td>
<td>10,077</td>
<td>10,077</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps Reserve</td>
<td>2,386</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air National Guard</td>
<td>25,333</td>
<td>26,630</td>
<td>26,630</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force Reserve</td>
<td>6,003</td>
<td>6,286</td>
<td>6,286</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOD Total</td>
<td>91,371</td>
<td>92,737</td>
<td>92,737</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, 2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
<th>Change from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army National Guard</td>
<td>22,294</td>
<td>22,294</td>
<td>22,294</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserve</td>
<td>6,492</td>
<td>6,492</td>
<td>6,492</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air National Guard</td>
<td>10,994</td>
<td>9,892</td>
<td>9,892</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1,102</td>
<td>-1,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force Reserve</td>
<td>7,111</td>
<td>6,696</td>
<td>6,696</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-415</td>
<td>-415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOD Total</td>
<td>46,891</td>
<td>45,374</td>
<td>45,374</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1,517</td>
<td>-1,517</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2023 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
<th>FY 2023 Request</th>
<th>FY 2022 Authorized</th>
<th>Change from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army National Guard</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserve</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Reserve</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps Reserve</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air National Guard</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force Reserve</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOD Total</td>
<td>69,200</td>
<td>69,200</td>
<td>69,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 5xx—Constructive Service Credit for Certain Officers of the Armed Forces: Authorization; Special Pay

This section would authorize constructive service credit for original appointment as a warrant officer in the regular component of an armed force for someone who has advanced education training or special experience.

Section 5XX—Limitation on Availability of Funds for Relocation of Army CID Special Agent Training Course

This section would prohibit the Army from obligating or expending funds to relocate an Army Criminal Investigation Division Special Agent course until 90 days after the Army provides a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on the completion of various overdue reports and the Secretary of the Army certifies the Army's full compliance with section 549C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81).

Section 5xx—Clarification of Grade of Surgeon General of the Navy

This section would authorize the Surgeon General of the Navy to hold the grade of O-9.

Section 5xx—Exclusion of Lead Special Trial Counsel from Limitations on General Officers and Flag Officers on Active Duty

This section would exclude general or flag officers serving as the lead trial special counsel from the general and flag officer limitations in section 526a of title 10, United States Code.

Section 5xx—Distribution of Commissioned Officers on Active Duty in General Officer and Flag Officer Grades

This section would establish the distribution of general and flag officers in the Space Force in section 525 of title 10, United States Code.

Section 5xx—Authorized Strength after December 31, 2022: General Officers and Flag Officers on Active Duty
This section would amend section 526a of title 10, United States Code, to include United States Space Force general officers on Active Duty.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT

Section 5xx—Grades of Certain Chiefs of Reserve Components

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

SUBTITLE D—MILITARY JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

Section 5XX—Mandatory Notification of Members of the Armed Forces Identified in Certain Records of Criminal Investigations

This section would require military criminal investigative organizations to promptly notify a service member when they have been designated, or have been designated in the past, as a suspect in any official investigative report, and include instructions on how to appeal such designation. This provision would be retroactive for 11 years.

Section 5XX—Special Trial Counsel of the Air Force

This section would provide for one lead special trial counsel for the Air Force and Space Force.

SUBTITLE F—MEMBER EDUCATION, TRAINING, RESILIENCE, AND TRANSITION

Section 5XX—Clarification and Expansion of Authorization of Support for Chaplain-Led Programs for Members of the Armed Forces

This section would allow chaplain-led authorized support programs to cover the cost of transportation, food, lodging, child care, supplies, fees, and training materials for resiliency, suicide prevention, or holistic wellness programs for single service members.

Section 5xx—Limitation of Extension of Period of Active Duty for a Member Who Accepts a Fellowship, Scholarship, or Grant

This section would implement a 5-year cap on Active Duty service commitments for PhD programs that fall under section 2603(b) of title 10, United States Code.
SUBTITLE G—MILITARY FAMILY READINESS AND DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATION

Section 5XX—EFMP Grant Program

This section would establish a grant program in support of the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Section 5XX—Advisory Panel on Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs

This section would expand the advisory panel on community support for military families with special needs.

Section 5xx—Certain Assistance to Local Educational Agencies That Benefit Dependents of Military and Civilian Personnel

This section would authorize $53.0 million for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students, and $22.0 million for local educational agencies eligible to receive a payment for children with severe disabilities.

Section 5xx—Extension of Pilot Program to Expand Eligibility for Enrollment at Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools

This section would extend the pilot program to expand eligibility for enrollment at domestic Department of Defense dependent elementary and secondary schools.

Section 5XX—Feasibility Study and Report on Pilot Program to Provide POTFF Services to Separating Members of Special Operations Forces and Certain Family Members

This section would require a study on the feasibility of extending special operations forces Preservation of the Force and Family services.

SUBTITLE H—DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

Section 5xx—Authorization for Award of the Medal of Honor to David R. Halbruner for Acts of Valor on September 11-12, 2012

This section would authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Major David R. Halbruner for acts of valor on September 11-12, 2012.
Section 5XX—Report on Sharing Information with Counsel for Victims of Offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

This section would require the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces to assess survivors' access to evidence in the military justice system.

Section 5XX—Notification to Next of Kin upon the Death of a Member of the Armed Forces

This section would update the process of notification of next of kin upon the death of a member of the Armed Forces.

Section 5xx—Pilot Program on Remote Personnel Processing in the Army

This section would authorize the creation of an application to permit and expedite virtual in-processing and out-processing of service members.

Section 5xx—Terms of Provost and Academic Dean of the United States Air Force Institute of Technology

This section would authorize the provost and academic dean of the Air Force Institute of Technology to serve more than 5 years.

Section 5xx—Assessments of Staffing in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Other Department of Defense Headquarters Offices

This section would require a validation of Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff staff billets.

Section 5xx—Independent Review of Army Officer Performance Evaluations

This section would require the Secretary of the Army to evaluate, through an independent entity, the Army's fitness report system.

Section 5xx—Authority to Waive Tuition at United States Air Force Institute of Technology for Certain Private Sector Civilians

This section would authorize the Air Force Institute of Technology Director and Chancellor to waive tuition costs for government civilian employees and contractors attending non-credit, continuing education short courses necessary for the performance of their duties.
Section 5xx—Industry Roundtable on Military Spouse Hiring

This section would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to convene a roundtable of private entities to discuss issues and barriers to military spouse hiring.

TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—PAY AND ALLOWANCES

Section 6xx—Exclusion of BAH from Gross Household Income for Purposes of Basic Needs Allowance

This section would remove the Basic Allowance for Housing from the calculation of service member eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance.

Section 6xx—Travel and Transportation Allowances for Certain Members of the Armed Forces Who Attend a Professional Military Education Institution or Training Classes

This section would authorize the Secretary of a military department to authorize temporary duty status for service members assigned to professional military education institutions or training classes for less than 1 year.

Section 6xx—Special Pay and Allowances for Members of the Armed Forces Assigned to Cold Weather Operations

This section would establish special "arctic pay" and other allowances to incentivize service members whose duties include maintaining critical cold-weather warfighting skills.

Section 6xx—Expansion of Authority to Reimburse a Member of the Uniformed Services for Spousal Business Costs Arising from a Permanent Change of Station

This section would authorize reimbursement for select moving expenses to assist military spouse entrepreneurs who do want to keep their business when they move.

Section 6xx—Report on Accuracy of Basic Allowance for Housing

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to study and report on a more transparent and modernized option to fairly calculate the Basic Allowance for Housing for service members.
Section 6xx—Reimbursement of Certain Child Care Costs Incident to a Permanent Change of Station or Assignment

This section would authorize travel payments for service members in need of child care support during a permanent change of station when unable to enroll their children in child care within 30 days of arrival at a new duty station.

Section 6xx—Study on Basic Pay

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct research and analysis to determine the value and validity of the basic pay model for members of the Armed Forces.

Section 6xx—Basic Allowance for Housing for a Member Without Dependents Whose Relocation Would Financially Disadvantage Such Member

This section would amend section 403 of title 37, United States Code, to allow the Secretaries of the military departments discretionary authority to authorize a housing allowance based on the old homeport or permanent duty station for single members disadvantaged as a result of a unit’s change of homeport or permanent duty station.

Section 6xx—Extension of One-Time Uniform Allowance for Officers Who Transfer to the Space Force

This section would extend the uniform allowance for officers that transfer to the Space Force for 1 year.

Section 6xx—Revival and Redesignation of Provision Establishing Benefits for Certain Members Assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency

This section would redesignate the provision for benefits for service members assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency.

SUBTITLE B—BONUSES AND INCENTIVE PAYS

Section 6xx—One-Year Extension of Certain Expiring Bonus and Special Pay Authorities

This section would extend, through December 31, 2023, 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 healthcare professionals; accession and retention incentives for nuclear-qualified officers; and the consolidated special and incentive pay authorities.
SUBTITLE C—DISABILITY, RETIRED PAY, AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Section 6xx—Claims Relating to the Return of Personal Effects of a Deceased Member of the Armed Forces

This section would authorize claims for reimbursement for the personal effects of deceased members of the Armed Forces that were damaged, lost, or destroyed when being returned to designated persons.

Section 6xx—Transitional Compensation and Benefits for the Former Spouse of a Member of the Armed Forces Who Allegedly Committed a Dependent-Abuse Offense during Marriage

This section would modify section 1059 of title 10, United States Code, to clarify the timing for eligibility of transitional compensation for dependent-abuse offenses during marriage to a service member.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER MATTERS

Section 6xx—Pay for DOD and Coast Guard Child Care Providers: Studies; Adjustment

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to complete a pay study of child development center employees as compared to similarly trained and qualified public elementary school employees for regions with the longest waiting lists for child care.

Section 6xx—Expanded Eligibility for Bereavement Leave for Members of the Armed Forces

This section would expand bereavement leave for service members upon the death of a parent.

Section 6xx—Study and Report on Barriers to Home Ownership for Members of the Armed Forces

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to study the barriers to home ownership for service members.

Section 6xx—Expansion of Authorized Assistance for Providers of Child Care Services to Members of the Armed Forces

This section would authorize an expansion of authorized assistance for child care service providers.
Section 6XX—Authorization of Permissive Temporary Duty for Wellness

This section would authorize up to 2 weeks of permissive temporary duty each year for service members to attend a seminar, retreat, workshop, or outdoor recreational therapy event hosted by a non-profit organization that focuses on psychological, physical, spiritual, or social wellness.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—TRICARE AND OTHER HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

Section 7XX—Clarifications Relating to Analysis of Department of Defense Comprehensive Autism Demonstration Program by National Academies

This section would make certain clarifications related to independent analysis of Department of Defense Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration program.

Section 7XX—Clarification of Coverage of Certain Areolar Nipple Tattooing Procedures under TRICARE Program

This section would clarify TRICARE covers 3D, in addition to 2D, nipple-areola tattooing following mastectomy reconstructive breast surgery.

Section 7XX—Audit of Behavioral Health Care Network Providers Listed in TRICARE Directory

This section requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct an audit of the behavioral health providers listed in the TRICARE directory.

SUBTITLE B—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Section 7XX—Clarification of License Portability for Health Care Providers Providing Services under Reserve Health Readiness Program

This section would expand license portability for individuals who provide medical or dental services under the Reserve Health Readiness program of the Department of Defense (or any successor program).

Section 7XX—Non-Medical Counseling Services for Military Families

This section would authorize license portability for mental health professionals who provide non-medical counseling services.
Section 7XX—Mandatory Training on Health Effects of Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

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

Section 7XX—Improvements Relating to Behavioral Health Care Available under Military Health System

This section would expand behavioral health programs at the Uniformed Services University and require reports on the behavioral health workforce.

Section 7XX—Other Transaction Authority for Studies and Demonstration Projects Relating to Delivery of Health and Medical Care

This section would allow the Secretary of Defense to enter into contracts or transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants) with public or private agencies, institutions, and organizations to conduct studies and demonstration projects.

Section 7XX—Modification of Certain Deadline and Requirement to Transfer Research and Development Functions to Defense Health Agency

This section would allow the Secretary of Defense to consolidate common medical research, development, and acquisition (RDA) programs under the Defense Health Agency and align service-specific medical RDA within each service.

Section 7XX—Modification of Requirement to Transfer Public Health Functions to Defense Health Agency

This section would allow the Secretary of Defense to consolidate certain public health functions under the Defense Health Agency and would allow the military departments to retain a public health function if the function addresses a need that is unique to the military department and the function is in direct support of operating forces and necessary to execute national security and defense strategies.

Section 7XX—Department of Defense Internship Programs Relating to Civilian Behavioral Health Providers

This section would establish internship programs for civilian behavioral health providers.
SUBTITLE D—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Section 7XX—Limitation on Realignment or Reduction of Military Medical Manning End Strength: Certification Requirement and Other Reforms

This section would limit the realignment or reduction of military medical manning end strength and require analysis of backfilling positions with civilian personnel.

Section 7xx—Authority for Department of Defense Program to Promote Early Literacy among Certain Young Children as Part of Pediatric Primary Care

This section would authorize a program to make available books to young children to promote early childhood literacy as part of pediatric primary care.

Section 7XX—Brain Health Initiative of Department of Defense

This section would establish and implement a comprehensive strategy and action plan for brain health to be known as the “Warfighter Brain Health Initiative" for the purpose of unifying disparate efforts and programs across the Department of Defense to improve the cognitive performance and brain health of the joint force.

Section 7XX—Independent Analysis of Quality and Patient Safety Review Process under Direct Care Component of TRICARE Program

This section would require an independent review of the Department of Defense Military Health System Quality Assurance Program to be completed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Section 7XX—Suicide Cluster: Standardized Definition for Use by Department of Defense; Congressional Notification

This section would define suicide cluster and require a notification process.

Section 7XX—GAO Study on Coverage of Mental Health Disorders under TRICARE Program and Relationship to Certain Mental Health Parity Laws

This section would require a Comptroller General of the United States review on whether TRICARE conforms with the requirements of certain mental health parity laws.

Section 7xx—Report on Composition of Medical Personnel of Each Military Department and Related Matters
This section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the composition of the medical personnel of each military department.

Section 7XX—Authority to Conduct Pilot Program Relating to Monitoring of Blast Overpressure Exposure

This section would establish a pilot program to test automated commercial-off-the-shelf wearable sensors.

Section 7XX—Clarification of Eligibility for Membership to Independent Suicide Prevention and Response Review Committee

This section would clarify who can serve on the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee.

Section 7XX—Review and Update of Policy Relating to Command Notification Process and Reduction of Mental Health Stigma

This section would require the revision of the Department of Defense Instruction titled "Command Notification Requirements to Dispel Stigma in Providing Mental Health Care to Service Members."

Section 7XX—Certification Program in Provision of Mental Health Services to Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans, and Military Families

This section would establish a curriculum and certification program to provide civilian mental health professionals and students in mental health-related disciplines with the specialized knowledge to treat service members, veterans, and their families.

Section 7XX—Pilot Program for Participation by Members of Selected Reserve in Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Programs

This section would authorize a pilot program for participation in the Health Professions Scholarship Program for individuals who serve in the Selected Reserve.

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE B—OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT MATTERS
Section 9xx—Report on Potential Transition of All Members of Space Force into a Single Component

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the single Space Force component and all the required legislation to execute the changes.
BILL LANGUAGE
SEC. 401. END STRENGTHS FOR ACTIVE FORCES.

The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for active duty personnel as of September 30, 2023, as follows:

1. The Army, 473,000.
2. The Navy, 348,220.
3. The Marine Corps, 177,000.
5. The Space Force, 8,600.
SEC. 402. REVISIONS IN PERMANENT ACTIVE DUTY END STRENGTH MINIMUM LEVELS.

Section 691(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(1) For the Army, 473,000.

“(2) For the Navy, 348,220.

“(3) For the Marine Corps, 177,000.

“(4) For the Air Force, 323,400.

“(5) For the Space Force, 8,600.”.
SEC. 411 [log74819]. END STRENGTHS FOR SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for Selected Reserve personnel of the reserve components as of September 30, 2023, as follows:

(1) The Army National Guard of the United States, 336,000.

(2) The Army Reserve, 189,500.

(3) The Navy Reserve, 57,700.

(4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 33,000.


(6) The Air Force Reserve, 70,000.

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

(b) END STRENGTH REDUCTIONS.—The end strengths prescribed by subsection (a) for the Selected Reserve of any reserve component shall be proportionately reduced by—

(1) the total authorized strength of units organized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of such component which are on active duty (other than for training) at the end of the fiscal year; and

(2) the total number of individual members not in units organized to serve as units of the Selected
Reserve of such component who are on active duty (other than for training or for unsatisfactory participation in training) without their consent at the end of the fiscal year.

(c) END STRENGTH INCREASES.—Whenever units or individual members of the Selected Reserve of any reserve component are released from active duty during any fiscal year, the end strength prescribed for such fiscal year for the Selected Reserve of such reserve component shall be increased proportionately by the total authorized strengths of such units and by the total number of such individual members.
SEC. 412. END STRENGTHS FOR RESERVES ON ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE RESERVES.

Within the end strengths prescribed in section 411(a), the reserve components of the Armed Forces are authorized, as of September 30, 2023, the following number of Reserves to be serving on full-time active duty or full-time duty, in the case of members of the National Guard, for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components:

1. The Army National Guard of the United States, 30,845.
2. The Army Reserve, 16,511.
3. The Navy Reserve, 10,077.
5. The Air National Guard of the United States, 26,630.
6. The Air Force Reserve, 6,286.
SEC. 413. END STRENGTHS FOR MILITARY TECHNICIANS (DUAL STATUS).

The minimum number of military technicians (dual status) as of the last day of fiscal year 2023 for the reserve components of the Army and the Air Force (notwithstanding section 129 of title 10, United States Code) shall be the following:

1. For the Army National Guard of the United States, 22,294.
2. For the Army Reserve, 6,492.
3. For the Air National Guard of the United States, 9,892.
4. For the Air Force Reserve, 6,696.
SEC. 414. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVE PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO BE ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

During fiscal year 2023, the maximum number of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who may be serving at any time on full-time operational support duty under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, is the following:

1. The Army National Guard of the United States, 17,000.
2. The Army Reserve, 13,000.
3. The Navy Reserve, 6,200.
4. The Marine Corps Reserve, 3,000.
5. The Air National Guard of the United States, 16,000.
6. The Air Force Reserve, 14,000.
SEC. 5. [log75034]. CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE CREDIT FOR
CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES:

AUTHORIZATION; SPECIAL PAY.

(a) CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE CREDIT FOR WARRANT
OFFICERS.—Section 572 of title 10, United States Code,
is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a)” before “For the pur-
poses”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
section:

“(b)(1) The Secretary concerned shall credit a person
who is receiving an original appointment as a warrant offi-
cier in the regular component of an armed force under the
jurisdiction of such Secretary concerned, and who has ad-
vanced education or training or special experience, with
constructive service for such education, training, or experi-
ence, as follows:

“(A) For special training or experience in a
particular warrant officer field designated by the
Secretary concerned, if such training or experience is
directly related to the operational needs of the
armed force concerned, as determined by such Sec-
retary concerned.
“(B) For advanced education in a warrant officer field designated by the Secretary concerned, if such education is directly related to the operational needs of the armed force concerned, as determined by such Secretary concerned.

“(2) The authority under this subsection expires on December 31, 2027.”.

(b) Special Pay for Certain Officers Commissioned or Appointed With Constructive Service Credit.—

(1) Establishment.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 336 the following new section:

“§337. Special pay: certain officers of the armed forces commissioned or appointed with constructive service credit

“(a) Special Pay Authorized.—The Secretary concerned may pay monthly special pay to an eligible officer under this section.

“(b) Eligible Officer Defined.—In this section, the term ‘eligible officer’ means an officer who—

“(1)(A) received an original appointment in a commissioned grade on or after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023; and
“(B) was credited by the Secretary of the military department concerned with constructive service under section 533(b)(1)(D) of title 10; or

“(2)(A) was originally appointed in a warrant officer grade on or after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023; and

“(B) was credited by the Secretary concerned with constructive service under section 572(b) of title 10.

“(c) AMOUNT OF PAY.—The Secretary concerned shall determine an amount of monthly special pay to pay to an eligible officer under this section. Such amount may not exceed $5,000 per month.

“(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER INCENTIVES.—Special pay under this section is in addition to any other pay or allowance to which an eligible officer is entitled.

“(e) SUNSET.—No special pay may be paid under this section after December 31, 2027.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 336 the following:

“337. Special pay: certain officers of the armed forces commissioned or appointed with constructive service credit.”.
(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretaries concerned shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2027, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the amendments made by this section. Such report shall include—

(1) the evaluation of such amendments by the Secretary; and

(2) the recommendation of the Secretary whether such amendments should be made permanent.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(A) The congressional defense committees.

(B) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(C) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) The terms “congressional defense committees” and “Secretary concerned” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RELOCATION OF ARMY CID SPECIAL AGENT TRAINING COURSE.

(a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2023 for the Army may be obligated or expended to relocate an Army CID special agent training course until—

(1)(A) the Secretary of the Army submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives—

   (i) the evaluation and plan required by subsection (a) of section 549C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 1724);

   (ii) the implementation plan required by subsection (b) of such section; and

   (iii) a separate report on any plans of the Secretary to relocate an Army CID special agent training course, including an explanation of the business case for any transfer of training personnel proposed as part of such plan;

   (B) the Secretary provides to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a
briefing on the contents of each report specified in
subparagraph (A); and

(C) a period of 90 days has elapsed following
the briefing under subparagraph (B); and

(2) the Secretary submits a written certification
to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate
and the House of Representatives indicating that the
Army has fully complied with subsection (e) of sec-
tion 549C of the National Defense Authorization
Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135
Stat. 1724) with regard to locations at which mili-
tary criminal investigative training is conducted.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “relocate”, when used with re-
spect to an Army CID special agent training course,
means the transfer of such course to a location dif-
ferent than the location used for such course as of
the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The term “Army CID special agent training
course” means a training course provided to mem-
bers of the Army to prepare such members for serv-
ice as special agents in the Army Criminal Investiga-
tion Division.
SEC. 5. [log75213]. CLARIFICATION OF GRADE OF SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY.

Section 8077 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) GRADE.—The Surgeon General, while so serving, shall hold the grade of O-9.”.
SEC. 5. EXCLUSION OF LEAD SPECIAL TRIAL COUNSEL FROM LIMITATIONS ON GENERAL OFFICERS AND FLAG OFFICERS ON ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 526a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (i) as subsection (j);

(2) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (h), (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) EXCLUSION OF OFFICERS SERVING AS LEAD SPECIAL TRIAL COUNSEL.—The limitations in subsection (a) do not apply to a general or flag officer serving in the position of lead special trial counsel pursuant to an appointment under section 1044f(a)(2) of this title.”
Section 525 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “as follows:” and inserting an em dash;

(B) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(5) in the Space Force, if that appointment would result in more than—

“(A) 2 officers in the grade of general;

“(B) 7 officers in a grade above the grade of major general; or

“(C) 6 officers in the grade of major general.”;”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “and Marine Corps” and inserting “Marine Corps, and Space Force”; and
(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or Marine Corps” and inserting “Marine Corps, or Space Force”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “or Commandant of the Marine Corps” and inserting “Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Chief of Space Operations”.


SEC. 5. [log75448]. AUTHORIZED STRENGTH AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2022: GENERAL OFFICERS AND FLAG OFFICERS ON ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 526a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “and Marine Corps” and inserting “Marine Corps, and Space Force”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “220” and inserting “218”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “151” and inserting “149”;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “187” and inserting “170”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) For the Space Force, 21.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) For the Space Force, 6.”.
SEC. 5. [log74969]. GRADES OF CERTAIN CHIEFS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) CHIEF OF ARMY RESERVE. — Section 7038(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

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

(2) CHIEF OF NAVY RESERVE. — Section 8083(b) of such title is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

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

(3) COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE. —

Section 8084(b) of such title is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

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

(4) CHIEF OF AIR FORCE RESERVE. — Section 9038(b) of such title is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

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

April 14, 2022 (10:41 a.m.)
(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the day that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to appointments made after such date.
SEC. 5. [Log 75020]. MANDATORY NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IDENTIFIED IN CERTAIN RECORDS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 80 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1567b. Mandatory notification of members of the armed forces and reserve components identified in certain records of criminal investigations

“(a) Notification of inclusion in MCIO records.—As soon as practicable after the conclusion of a criminal investigation for which a military criminal investigative organization is the lead investigative agency, the head of such organization shall provide, to any member or a former member of the armed forces and reserve components who is designated in the records of the organization as a subject of such investigation, written notice of such designation.

“(b) Initial notification of previous inclusion in MCIO records.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the head of each military criminal investigative organization shall provide,
to any member or former member of the armed forces and reserve components who is designated after January 1, 2011 in the records of the organization as a subject of a criminal investigation that is closed as of such date, written notice of such designation.

“(c) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—Each notice provided under subsection (a) and (b) shall include the following information—

“(1) The date on which the member was designated as a subject of a criminal investigation in the records of the military criminal investigative organization.

“(2) Identification of each crime for which the member was investigated, including a citation to each provision of chapter 47 of this title (the Uniform Code of Military Justice) that the member was suspected of violating, if applicable.

“(3) Instructions on how the member may seek removal of the record in accordance with subsection (d).

“(d) REMOVAL OF RECORD.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

“(1) establish a process through which a member of the armed forces and reserve components who receives a notice under subsection (a) or (b) may re-
quest the removal of the record that is the subject
of such notice; and

“(2) issue uniform guidance, applicable to all
military criminal investigative organizations, speci-

“(f) ON-GOING AND SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIONS.—
The head of a military criminal investigative organization
may waive the notification requirements of this section if
such head determines that a notification made pursuant
to this section would—

“(1) endanger any witness or victim of the of-

“(2) disclose the existence of an intelligence or
counterintelligence investigation; or

“(3) compromise or reveal any other on-going
criminal investigation.

“(e) MILITARY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE ORGANIZA-
TION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘military crimi-
nal investigative organization’ means any organization or
element of the Department of Defense or an armed force
that is responsible for conducting criminal investigations,
including—

“(1) the Army Criminal Investigation Com-
mand;
“(2) the Naval Criminal Investigative Service;

“(3) the Air Force Office of Special Investigations;

“(4) the Coast Guard Investigative Service; and

“(5) the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1567b. Mandatory notification of members of the armed forces and reserve components identified in certain records of criminal investigations.”.
SEC. 5. [Log 75505]. SPECIAL TRIAL COUNSEL OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1044f of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “The policies shall” and inserting “Subject to subsection (c), the policies shall”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) SPECIAL TRIAL COUNSEL OF DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.—In establishing policies under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall—

“(1) in lieu of providing for separate offices for the Air Force and Space Force under subsection (a)(1), provide for the establishment of a single dedicated office from which office the activities of the special trial counsel of the Department of the Air Force shall be supervised and overseen; and

“(2) in lieu of providing for separate lead special trial counsels for the Air Force and Space Force under subsection (a)(2), provide for the appointment
of one lead special trial counsel who shall be respon-
sible for the overall supervision and oversight of the
activities of the special trial counsel of the Depart-
ment of the Air Force.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made sub-
section (a) shall take effect immediately after the coming
into effect of the amendments made by section 532 of the
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022
(Public Law 117–81) as provided in section 539C of that
Act.
SEC. 5. CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF SUPPORT FOR CHAPLAIN-LED PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 1789 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “chaplain-led programs” and inserting “a chaplain-led program”; and

(B) by striking “members of the armed forces” and all that follows through “status and their immediate family members,” and inserting “a covered individual”; and

(C) by inserting “, or to support the resiliency, suicide prevention, or holistic wellness of such covered individual” after “structure”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “members of the armed forces and their family members” and inserting “a covered individual”; and

(B) by striking “programs” and inserting “a program”; and

(C) by striking “retreats and conferences” and inserting “a retreat or conference”; and
(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered individual’ means—

“(1) a member of the armed forces on active duty;

“(2) a member of the reserve components in an active status; or

“(3) a dependent of an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B).”.
SEC. 5. LIMITATION OF EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY FOR A MEMBER WHO ACCEPTS A FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, OR GRANT.

(a) LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of section 2603 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end “No such period may exceed five years”.

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECT.—An agreement under such subsection, made by a member of the Armed Forces on or before the date of the enactment of this Act, may not require such member to serve on active duty for a period that exceeds than five years.
SEC. 5. [log74997]. EFMP GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a program to award grants to, and enter into agreements with, eligible entities under which participating eligible entities shall provide, to covered members assigned to PRIs, services described in subsection (b).

(b) SERVICES.—Services described in this subsection are the provision of—

(1) training and information that help a covered dependent—

(A) meet developmental, functional, and academic goals; and

(B) prepare to lead a productive and independent adult life;

(2) training and information that help a covered member—

(A) better understand the disabilities and educational, developmental, and transitional needs of the covered dependent of such covered member;

(B) participate in the development of an individualized education program for the covered dependent;
(C) communicate effectively and work collaboratively with individuals responsible for providing, to covered dependents, special education, early intervention services, transition services, and related services; and

(D) resolve a dispute, regarding education or services described in subparagraph (C), as expeditiously and effectively as possible, including encouraging the use, and explaining the benefits, of alternative methods of dispute resolution; and

(3) if an eligible entity is not a PTI—

(A) information regarding services offered by the local PTI (about which the eligible entity shall consult with the local PTI not less than once each quarter year); and

(B) referrals of covered members to the local PTI.

(c) CO-LOCATION.—To the extent practical, the Secretary shall ensure that an eligible entity that participates in the program under this section shall provide services described in subsection (b) at a location on the military installation concerned where the Secretary furnishes other services under the EFMP.
(d) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall implement the program under this section at—

(1) six PRIs (one PRI for each covered Armed Force and one joint PRI) not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) all PRIs not later than four years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **PLAN.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the plan of the Secretary to implement the program under this section.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the Secretary implements the program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on implementation of the program. Such report shall include evaluations of the following:

(1) Satisfaction of covered members and covered dependents who receive services under such program.

(2) Adherence of schools, with respect to covered dependents described in paragraph (1), to—

(A) individualized education programs; and

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:
   (A) The congressional defense committees.
   (B) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.
   (C) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) The term “congressional defense committees” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “covered Armed Force” means an Armed Force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department.

(4) The term “covered dependent” means a dependent—
   (A) of a member of a covered Armed Force;
   (B) who is a minor; and
   (C) who is enrolled in the EFMP.

(5) The term “covered member” means a member—
(A) of a covered Armed Force; and

(B) with a covered dependent.

(6) The term “EFMP” means an Exceptional Family Member Program of the Department of Defense under section 1781c(e) of title 10, United States Code.

(7) The term “eligible entity” means a private, nonprofit entity, or an institution of higher education, that the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate to provide services described in subsection (b).

(8) The term “individualized education program” has the meaning given such term in section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414).

(9) The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(11) The term “PTI” means a parent training and information center, as that term is defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 91–230; 20 U.S.C. 1401).
SEC. 5. ADVISORY PANEL ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Section 563(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 10 U.S.C. 1781e note) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) MEMBERS.—The advisory panel shall consist of the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Defense:

“(A) Nine individuals from military families with special needs, with respect to whom the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(i) one individual is the spouse of an enlisted member;

“(ii) one individual is the spouse of an officer in a grade below O–6;

“(iii) one individual is a junior enlisted member;

“(iv) one individual is a junior officer;

“(v) individuals reside in different geographic regions;
“(vi) one individual is a member serving at a remote installation or is a member of the family of such a member; and

“(vii) at least two individuals are members serving on active duty, each with a dependent who—

“(I) is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program; and

“(II) has an individualized education program.

“(B) One representative of the Defense Health Agency.

“(C) One representative of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

“(D) One representative of the Office of Special Needs of the Department of Defense.

“(E) One or more representatives of advocacy groups with missions relating to the Exceptional Family Member Program of the Department of Defense.

“(F) One or more adult dependents enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program of the Department of Defense.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(5) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY.—The advisory panel shall—

“(A) provide advice that is relevant, objective, and transparent;

“(B) ensure that any meetings or other proceedings of the advisory panel are accessible to the public; and

“(C) make available on a publicly accessible website—

“(i) meeting announcements;

“(ii) minutes of meetings;

“(iii) the names of council representatives; and

“(iv) regular updates on the progress of the panel in fulfilling the duties specified in paragraph (3).”.
SEC. 5. [Log 75035]. CERTAIN ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES THAT BENEFIT DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.

(a) Continuation of Authority to Assist Local Educational Agencies That Benefit Dependents of Members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense Civilian Employees.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023 by section 301 and available for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities as specified in the funding table in section 4301, $53,000,000 shall be available only for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies under subsection (a) of section 572 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 20 U.S.C. 7703b).

(b) Impact Aid for Children with Severe Disabilities.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023 pursuant to section 301 and available for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities as specified in the funding table in section 4301, $22,000,000 shall be available for payments under section 363 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authoriza-

(c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “local educational agency” has the meaning given that term in section 7013(9) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7713(9)).
SEC. 5. [Log 75481]. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM TO
EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR ENROLLMENT AT
DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Section 589C(e) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021
(Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 2164 note) is amended
by striking “four years” and inserting “eight years”.
SEC. 5. FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE POTFF SERVICES TO SEPARATING MEMBERS OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2023, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the feasibility of a pilot program to provide, to covered individuals, services under POTFF. The report shall include the following elements:

(1) An outline of the tools, resources, and personnel the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the pilot program.

(2) An assessment of the potential benefits, implications, and effects of the pilot program.

(3) The POTFF services that the Secretary could provide to covered individuals under the pilot program.

(4) An assessment of how best to carry out the separation of covered members, including any additional resources the Secretary determines necessary.
(5) Any legislative or administrative action that
the Secretary determines necessary to carry the such
pilot program.

(6) Any other information the Secretary deter-
dines appropriate.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered individual” means—

(A) a covered member;

(B) an immediate family of a covered
member; or

(C) an individual eligible for a gold star
lapel button under section 1126 of title 10,
United States Code, on the basis of the rela-
tionship of such individual to a deceased mem-
ber of special operations forces.

(2) The term “covered member” means mem-
ers of the Armed Forces—

(A) assigned to special operations forces;

and

(B) who are separating from the Armed
Forces.

(3) The term “immediate family member” has
the meaning given that term in section 1789 of title
10, United States Code.
(4) The term “POTFF” means the Preservation of the Force and Family Program of United States Special Operations Command under section 1788a of title 10, United States Code.

(5) The term “special operations forces” means the forces described in section 167(j) of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO DAVID R. HALBRUNER FOR ACTS OF VALOR ON SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2012.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 7272 of such title to David R. Halbruner for the acts of valor described in the subsection.

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of David R. Halbruner as a master sergeant in the Army on September 11-12, 2012, for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished-Service Cross.
SEC. 5. REPORT ON SHARING INFORMATION WITH COUNSEL FOR VICTIMS OF OFFENSES UNDER THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (referred to in this section as the “Advisory Committee”) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and each Secretary concerned a report on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a uniform policy for the sharing of the information described in subsection (c) with a Special Victims’ Counsel, Victims’ Legal Counsel, or other counsel representing a victim of an offense under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of establishing the uniform policy described in subsection (a), including an assessment of the potential effects of such a policy on—

(A) the privacy of individuals;
(B) the criminal investigative process; and

(C) the military justice system generally.

(2) If the Advisory Committee determines that the establishment of such a policy is feasible and ad-
visable, a description of—

(A) the stages of the military justice proc-
cess at which the information described in sub-
section (c) should be made available to counsel repre-
senting a victim; and

(B) any circumstances under which some or all of such information should not be shared.

(3) Such recommendations for legislative or ad-
ministrative action as the Advisory Committee con-
siders appropriate.

(c) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information de-
scribed in this subsection is the following:

(1) Any recorded statements of the victim to in-
vestigators.

(2) The record of any forensic examination of the person or property of the victim, including the record of any sexual assault forensic exam of the vic-
tim that is in possession of investigators or the Gov-
ernment.

(3) Any medical record of the victim that is in the possession of investigators or the Government.
(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 5. [log74984]. NOTIFICATION TO NEXT OF KIN UPON
THE DEATH OF A MEMBER OF THE ARMED
FORCES.
Subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 10, United States
Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
section (and the table of sections at the beginning of such
subchapter is amended accordingly):

§ 1493. Notification to next of kin or other appro-
priate person: timing; training

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a death that re-
quires the Secretary of the military department concerned
to provide a death benefit under this subchapter, such Sec-
retary shall notify the next of kin or other appropriate
person not later than four hours after such death.

(b) DEATH OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—If a
death described in subsection (a) occurs outside the
United States, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination
with the Secretary of State, shall attempt to delay report-
ing, by the media of the country in which such death oc-
curs, of the name of the decedent until after the Secretary
of the military department concerned has notified the next
of kin or other appropriate person pursuant to subsection
(a).
“(c) TRAINING.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall include a training exercise regarding a death described in this section in each major exercise or planning conference conducted by such Secretary or the Secretary of Defense.”.
SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAM ON REMOTE PERSONNEL PROCESSING IN THE ARMY.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than January 1, 2024, the Secretary of the Army shall implement a pilot program to test the use of a software application to expedite in-processing and out-processing at one or more military installations—

(1) under the jurisdiction of such Secretary; and

(2) located within the continental United States.

(b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The software application shall perform the following functions:

(1) Enable the remote in-processing and out-processing of covered personnel, including by permitting covered personnel to electronically sign forms.

(2) Reduce the number of hours required of covered personnel for in-processing and out-processing.

(3) Provide, to covered personnel and the commander of a military installation concerned, electronic copies of records related to in-processing and out-processing.
(c) **Selection of Location.**—In selecting a military installation for the pilot program, the Secretary shall give priority to the military installation that is the least popular according to preferences of Army officers in the Active Duty Officer Assignment Interactive Module.

(d) **Termination.**—The pilot program shall terminate on January 1st, 2027.

(e) **Report.**—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding the pilot program, including the recommendation of the Secretary whether to make the pilot program permanent.

(f) **Definitions.**—In this section:

1. The term “covered personnel” includes members of the Army and civilian employees of the Department of the Army.

2. The term “in-processing” means the administrative activities that covered personnel undertake pursuant to a permanent change of station.

3. The term “out-processing” means the administrative activities that covered personnel undertake pursuant to a permanent change of station, separation from the Army, or end of employment with the Department of the Army.
SEC. 5. TERMS OF PROVOST AND ACADEMIC DEAN OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

(a) In General.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of section 9414b of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows: “An individual selected for the position of Provost and Chief Academic Officer shall serve in that position for a term of not more than five years and may be continued in that position for an additional term of up to five years”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—Paragraph (1) of such subsection is amended by striking “appointed” and inserting “selected”.
SEC. 5. ASSESSMENTS OF STAFFING IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.

(a) OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an assessment of staffing of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Such assessment shall including the following elements:

1. A validation of every military staff billet assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense against existing military personnel requirements.

2. The estimated effect of returning 15 percent of such military staff billets to operational activities of the Armed Forces concerned, over a period of 36 months, would have on the office of the Secretary of Defense and other Department of Defense Headquarters Offices.

3. A plan and milestones for how reductions described in paragraph (2) would occur, a schedule for such reductions, and the process by which the billets would be returned to the operational activities of the Armed Forces concerned.

(b) OFFICE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall conduct an
assessment of staffing of the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Such assessment shall including the following elements:

(1) A validation of every military staff billet assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff against existing military personnel requirements.

(2) The estimated effect of returning 15 percent of such military staff billets to operational activities of the Armed Forces concerned, over a period of 36 months, would have on the office of the Joint Staff and the Chairman’s Controlled Activities and other related Joint Staff Headquarters Offices.

(3) A plan and milestones for how reductions described in paragraph (2) would occur, a schedule for such reductions, and the process by which the billets would be returned to the operational activities of the Armed Forces concerned.

(c) INTERIM BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

(1) INTERIM BRIEFING.—Not later than April 1, 2023, the Secretary shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives an interim briefing on the assessments under subsections (a) and (b).

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the assessments under subsections (a) and (b). Such report shall include the following:

(A) A validation of every military staff billet assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff to include the Chairman’s Controlled Activities against existing military personnel requirements.

(B) The methodology and process through which such validation was performed.

(C) Relevant statistical analysis on military billet fill rates against validated requirements.

(D) An analysis of unvalidated military billets currently performing staff support functions,

(E) The rationale for why unvalidated military billets may be required.

(F) The cost of military staff filling both validated and unvalidated billets.

(G) Lessons learned through the military billet validation process and statistical analysis under subparagraphs (B) through (F).

(H) Any other matters the Secretary determines relevant to understanding the use of mili-
tary staff billets described in subsections (a) and (b).

(I) Any legislative, policy or budgetary recommendations of the Secretary related to the subject matter of the report.
SEC. 5. [log75356]. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ARMY OFFICER PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than six months after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall seek to enter into an agreement with a private entity that the Secretary determines appropriate to—

(1) study the fitness report system used for the performance evaluation of Army officers; and

(2) provide to the Secretary recommendations regarding how to improve such system.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of the effectiveness of the fitness report system at evaluating and documenting the performance of Army officers.

(2) A comparison of the fitness report system for Army officers with best practices for performance evaluations used by public- and private-sector organizations.

(3) An analysis of the value of Army fitness reports in providing useful information to officer promotion boards.
(4) An analysis of the value of Army fitness reports in providing useful feedback to Army officers being evaluated.

(5) Recommendations to improve the Army fitness report system to—

(A) increase its effectiveness at accurately evaluating and documenting the performance of Army officers;

(B) align with best practices for performance evaluations used by public- and private-sector organizations;

(C) provide more useful information to officer promotion boards; and

(D) provide more useful feedback regarding evaluated officers.

(e) ACCESS TO DATA AND RECORDS.—The Secretary of the Army shall ensure that the entity selected under subsection (a) has sufficient resources and access to technical data, individuals, organizations, and records necessary to complete the study required under this section.

(d) SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.—Not later than one year after entering into an agreement under subsection (a), the entity that conducts the study under subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary of the Army a report on the results of the study.
(c) Submission to Congress.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Army receives the report under subsection (d), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees—

(1) an unaltered copy of such report; and

(2) any comments of the Secretary regarding such report.
SEC. 5. [log75364]. AUTHORITY TO WAIVE TUITION AT

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF

TECHNOLOGY FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE SEC-

TOR CIVILIANS.

Section 9414a(e)(1) of title 10, United States Code,
is amended—

(1) in by striking “The United” and inserting

“Subject to paragraph (3), the United”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The Director and Chancellor of the United
States Air Force Institute of Technology may waive tui-

tion for a student, enrolled under this section, who attends

a course for professional continuing education.”.

SEC. 5  [log75504]. INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE ON MILITARY SPOUSE HIRING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall seek to convene an industry roundtable to discuss the hiring of military spouses. Such discussion shall include the following elements:

(1) The value of, and opportunities to, private entities that hire military spouses.

(2) Career opportunities for military spouses.

(3) Understanding the challenges that military spouses encounter in the labor market.

(4) Gaps and opportunities in the labor market for military spouses.

(5) Best hiring practices from industry leaders in human resources.

(b) PARTICIPANTS.—The participants in the roundtable shall include the following:

(1) The Under Secretary.

(2) The Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs of each military department.

(3) The Director of the Defense Human Resources Activity.
(4) Other officials of the Department of Defense the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.

(5) Private entities that elect to participate.

(c) NOTICE.—The Under Secretary shall publish notice of the roundtable in multiple private sector forums and the Federal Register to encourage participation in the roundtable by private entities and entities interested in the hiring of military spouses.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives on the lessons learned from the roundtable, including the recommendation of the Secretary whether to convene the roundtable annually.
SEC. 6. EXCLUSION OF BAH FROM GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF BASIC NEEDS ALLOWANCE.

Section 402b(k)(1) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of this title paid to such member.”
SEC. 6. [log75024]. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO ATTEND A PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION OR TRAINING CLASSES.

Section 453 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) ATTENDANCE AT PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION OR TRAINING CLASSES.—

“(1) The Secretary of the military department concerned may authorize temporary duty status, and travel and transportation allowances payable to a member in such status, for a member under the jurisdiction of such Secretary who is reassigned—

“(A) between duty stations located within the United States;

“(B) for a period of not more than one year;

“(C) for the purpose of participating in professional military education or training classes,

“(D) with orders to return to the duty station where the member maintains primary resi-
dence and the dependents of such member reside.

“(2) If the Secretary of the military department concerned assigns permanent duty status to a member described in paragraph (1), such member shall be eligible for travel and transportation allowances including the following:

“(A) Transportation, including mileage at the same rate paid for a permanent change of station.

“(B) Per diem while traveling between the permanent duty station and professional military education institution or training site.

“(C) Per diem paid in the same manner and amount as temporary lodging expenses.

“(D) Per diem equal to the amount of the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of this title paid to a member—

“(i) in the grade of such member;

“(ii) without dependents;

“(iii) who resides in the military housing area in which the professional military education institution or training site is located.
“(E) Movement of household goods in an amount determined under applicable regulations.”
SEC. 6. [log75059]. SPECIAL PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS.

(a) Special Pay.—

(1) Establishment.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 336 the following new section:

“§ 337. Special pay: members of the armed forces assigned to cold weather operations

“(a) Special Pay Authorized.—The Secretary concerned shall pay monthly special pay (to be known as ‘arctic pay’) to a member of the armed forces—

“(1) assigned to perform cold weather operations; or

“(2) required to maintain proficiency through frequent operations in cold weather.

“(b) Amount of Pay.—Special pay under this section shall equal $300 per month.

“(c) Relationship to Other Pay or Allowances.—Special pay under this section is in addition to any other pay or allowance to which a member is entitled.

“(d) Sunset.—No special pay may be paid under this section after December 31, 2023.”.
(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 336 the following:

“337. Special pay: members of the armed forces assigned to permanent duty stations in Alaska.”.

(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations for the payment of arctic pay under section 337 of such title, as added by subsection (a).

(b) PILOT ALLOWANCE FOR BROADBAND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 7 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 425 the following new section:

“§ 426. Allowance for broadband for members of the armed forces assigned to permanent duty stations in Alaska

“(a) ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary concerned shall pay, to a member of the armed forces assigned to a permanent duty station in Alaska, a monthly allowance for broadband.

“(b) AMOUNT.—The monthly allowance to a member under this section shall be—

“(1) $125 during calendar year 2023; and

“(2) in subsequent calendar years, an amount determined by the Secretary of Defense based on the
difference between the average costs of unlimited broadband plans in Alaska and in the continental United States.

“(c) SUNSET.—No allowance may be paid under this section after December 31, 2028.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 425 the following:

“426. Allowance for broadband for members of the armed forces assigned to permanent duty stations in Alaska.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 426 of such title, as added by this subsection, shall take effect on the day the Secretary of Defense prescribes regulations under paragraph (4).

(4) REGULATIONS.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry out section 426 of such title, as added by this subsection.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2027, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing—
(A) the evaluation of the Secretary of the allowance under section 426 of such title, as added by this subsection; and

(B) any recommendation of the Secretary regarding whether such allowance should be amended, extended, or made permanent.

c) Travel and Transportation Allowance.—

(1) Entitlement.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations and guidance that entitle a member of the Armed Forces, assigned to a permanent duty station in Alaska, to a one-time allowance for air travel for the member and dependents of such member.

(2) Amounts.—If the air travel is to the permanent residence of the member, the amount of the allowance shall equal the total costs of such air travel. If such air travel is to another destination within the United States, amount of the allowance shall be equal to the lesser of the following:

(A) The rate for such air travel under the City Pair Program of the General Services Administration (or successor program) in effect at the time of such air travel.

(B) The actual costs of such air travel.
(3) **TIMING.**—Air travel reimbursed under such regulation may not commence later than 30 months after the member is assigned to a permanent duty station in Alaska.

(4) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary concerned may authorize an additional allowance for a member who has used the allowance to which such member is entitled under this subsection.
SEC. 6—[log75063]. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO REIM- 
BURSE A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERV-
ICES FOR SPOUSAL BUSINESS COSTS ARIS-
ING FROM A PERMANENT CHANGE OF STA-
TION.

Section 453(g) of title 37, United States Code, is 
amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “OR BUSINESS 
Costs” after “RELICENSING COSTS”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or qualified 
business costs” after “qualified relicensing costs”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “(A)” before “Reimburse-
ment”;

(B) by inserting “for qualified relicensing 
costs” after “subsection”; 

(C) by striking “$1000” and inserting 
“$1,000”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new 
subparagraph:

“(B) Reimbursement provided to a member under 
this subsection for qualified business costs may not exceed 
$2,000 in connection with each reassignment described in 
paragraph (1).”;
(4) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or qualified business costs” after “qualified relicensing costs”;

(5) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “business license, permit,” after “courses,”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting “, or owned a business,” before “during”;

(ii) by inserting “professional” before “license”; and

(iii) by inserting “, or business license or permit,” after “certification”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “professional” before “license”; and

(ii) by inserting “, or business license or permit,” after “certification”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘qualified business costs’ means costs, including moving services for equipment, equipment removal, new equipment purchases, information technology expenses, and inspection fees, incurred by the spouse of a member if—
“(A) the spouse owned a business during the member’s previous duty assignment and the costs result from a movement described in paragraph (1)(B) in connection with the member’s change in duty location pursuant to reassignment described in paragraph (1)(A); and

“(B) the costs were incurred or paid to move such business to a new location in connection with such reassignment.”.
SEC. 6 [log75064]. REPORT ON ACCURACY OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING.

(a) REPORT; ELEMENTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on BAH. Such report shall contain the following elements:

(1) The evaluation of the Secretary—

(A) of the efficiency and accuracy of the current system used to calculate BAH;

(B) the appropriateness of using mean and median housing costs in such calculation;

(C) of existing MHAs, in relation to choices in, and availability of, housing to servicemembers;

(D) of the suitability of the six standard housing profiles in relation to the average family sizes of servicemembers, disaggregated by uniformed service, rank, and MHA;

(E) of the flexibility of BAH to respond to changes in real estate markets; and
(F) of residential real estate processes to
determine rental rates.

(2) The recommendation of the Secretary—

(A) regarding the feasibility of including
information, furnished by Federal entities, re-
garding school districts, in calculating BAH;

(B) whether to calculate BAH more fre-
quently, including in response to a sudden
change in the housing market;

(C) whether to enter into an agreement
with a covered entity, to compile data and de-
velop an enterprise grade, objective, data-driven
algorithm to calculate BAH; and

(D) whether to publish the methods used
by the Secretary to calculate BAH on a publicly
accessible website of the Department of De-
fense.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
mittees” means the following:

(A) The Committee on Armed Services of
the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on Armed Services of
the Senate.
(C) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

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

(2) The term “BAH” means the basic allowance for housing for members of the uniformed services under section 403 of title 37, United States Code.

(3) The term “covered entity” means a nationally recognized entity in the field of commercial real estate that has data on local rental rates in real estate markets across the United States.

(4) The term “MHA” means military housing area.

(5) The term “servicemember” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3911).
SEC. 6. [log75206]. REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN CHILD CARE COSTS INCIDENTAL TO A PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION OR ASSIGNMENT.

(a) Designated Child Care Provider: Definition; Inclusion as Authorized Traveler.—Section 451(a) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(C), by inserting “, or as a designated child care provider if child care is not available to a member of the armed forces at a military child development center (as that term is defined in section 1800 of title 10) at the permanent duty location of such member not later than 30 days after the member arrives at such location” before the period; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The term ‘designated child care provider’ means an adult selected by a member of the armed forces to provide child care to a dependent child of such member.”.

(b) Authorization of Reimbursement.—Section 453 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
“(h) Reimbursement of Certain Child Care Costs Incident to a Member’s Permanent Change of Station or Assignment.—(1) From amounts otherwise made available for a fiscal year to provide travel and transportation allowances under this chapter, the Secretary concerned may reimburse a member of the armed forces for travel expenses for a designated child care provider when—

“(A) the member is reassigned, either as a permanent change of station or permanent change of assignment, to a new duty station;

“(B) the movement of the member’s dependents is authorized at the expense of the United States under this section as part of the reassignment;

“(C) child care is not available at a military child development center (as that term is defined in section 1800 of title 10) at such duty station not later than 30 days after the member arrives at such duty station; and

“(D) the dependent child is on the wait list for child care at such military child development center.

“(2) Reimbursement provided to a member under this subsection may not exceed—

“(A) $500 for a reassignment between duty stations within the continental United States; and
“(B) $1,500 for a reassignment involving a duty station outside of the continental United States.

“(3) A member may not apply for reimbursement under this subsection later than one year after a reassignment described in paragraph (1).

“(4) In the event a household contains two or more members eligible for reimbursement under this subsection, reimbursement may be paid to one member among such members as such members shall jointly elect.”.
(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit entity or a federally funded research and development center to conduct research and analysis on the value of basic pay for members of the Armed Forces. The Secretary may include such research and analysis in the next quadrennial review of military compensation.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The research and analysis conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the model used to determine the basic pay in the current basic pay tables, including—

(A) an analysis of whether to update the current model to meet the needs of the 2023 employment market;

(B) a historical understanding of when the current model was established and how frequently it has been during the last 10 years;

(C) an understanding of the assumptions on which the model is based and how such assumptions are validated;
(D) an analysis of time-in-grade requirements and how they may affect retention and promotion; and

(E) an assessment of how recruiting and retention information is used to adjust the model.

(2) An assessment of whether to modify current basic pay tables to consider higher rates of pay for specialties the Secretary determines are in critical need of personnel.

(3) An analysis of—

(A) how basic pay has compared with civilian pay since the 70th percentile benchmark for basic pay was established; and

(B) whether to change the 70th percentile benchmark.

(4) An assessment of whether—

(A) to adjust the annual increase in basic pay, currently guided by changes in the Employment Cost Index as a measure of the growth in private-sector employment costs; or

(B) to use a different index, such as the Defense Employment Cost Index.
(5) Legislative and policy recommendations regarding basic pay table based on analyses and assessments under paragraphs (1) through (4).

(c) Briefings and Progress Report.—

(1) Interim Briefing.—Not later than April 1, 2023, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees an interim briefing on the elements described in subsection (b).

(2) Progress Report.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a progress report on the study under this section.

(3) Final Briefing.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a final briefing on the study under this section.

(d) Appropriate Congressional Committees Defined.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.
(3) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 6. [log75308]. BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING FOR

A MEMBER WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHOSE

RELOCATION WOULD FINANCIALLY DIS-

ADVANTAGE SUCH MEMBER.

Section 403(o) of title 37, United States Code, is

amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “In the case of a

member who is assigned”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new

paragraph:

“(2) In the case of a member without dependents who

is assigned to a unit that undergoes a change of home

port or a change of permanent duty station, the Secretary

concerned may, if the Secretary concerned determines that

it would be inequitable to base the member’s entitlement

to, and amount of, a basic allowance for housing on the

new home port or permanent duty station, treat such

member, for the purposes of this section, as if the unit

to which the member is assigned did not undergo such

a change.”.
SEC. 6. [log75450]. EXTENSION OF ONE-TIME UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS WHO TRANSFER TO THE SPACE FORCE.


SEC. 6. [log75454]. REVIVAL AND REDESIGNATION OF PROVISION ESTABLISHING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

(a) REVIVAL.—Section 491 of title 37, United States Code—

(1) is revived to read as it did immediately before its repeal under section 604 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81); and

(2) is redesignated as section 431 of such title.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by inserting, after the item relating to section 427, the following new item:

“431. Benefits for certain members assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency.”.
SEC. 6. [log74825]. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXPIRING BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES.

(a) Authorities Relating to Reserve Forces.—Section 910(g) of title 37, United States Code, relating to income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service, is amended by striking “December 31, 2022” and inserting “December 31, 2023”.

(b) Title 10 Authorities Relating to Health Care Professionals.—The following sections of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2022” and inserting “December 31, 2023”:

(1) Section 2130a(a)(1), relating to nurse officer candidate accession program.

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

(c) Authorities Relating to Nuclear Officers.—Section 333(i) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2022” and inserting “December 31, 2023”.

(d) **AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TITLE 37 CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES.**—The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2022” and inserting “December 31, 2023”:

1. (1) Section 331(h), relating to general bonus authority for enlisted members.
2. (2) Section 332(g), relating to general bonus authority for officers.
3. (3) Section 334(i), relating to special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.
4. (4) Section 335(k), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions.
5. (5) Section 336(g), relating to contracting bonus for cadets and midshipmen enrolled in the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.
6. (6) Section 351(h), relating to hazardous duty pay.
7. (7) Section 352(g), relating to assignment pay or special duty pay.
8. (8) Section 353(i), relating to skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus.
(9) Section 355(h), relating to retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.

(e) Authority to Provide Temporary Increase in Rates of Basic Allowance for Housing.—Section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(E), by striking “December 31, 2022” and inserting “December 31, 2023”; and

(2) in paragraph (8)(C), by striking “September 30, 2022” and inserting “December 31, 2023”.

SEC. 6. CLAIMS RELATING TO THE RETURN OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OF A DECEASED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 1482(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11)(A) Delivery of personal effects of a decedent to the next of kin or other appropriate person.

“(B) If the Secretary concerned enters into an agreement with an entity to carry out subparagraph (A), the Secretary concerned shall pursue a claim against such entity that arises from the failure of such entity to substantially perform such subparagraph.

“(C) If an entity described in subparagraph (B) fails to substantially perform subparagraph (A) by damaging, losing, or destroying the personal effects of a decedent, the Secretary concerned shall reimburse the person designated under subsection (c) the greater of $1,000 or the fair market value of such damage, loss, or destruction. The Secretary concerned may request from, the person designated under subsection (c), proof of fair market value and ownership of the personal effects.”.
SEC. 6. TRANSITIONAL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS FOR THE FORMER SPOUSE OF A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED A DEPENDENT-ABUSE OFFENSE DURING MARRIAGE.

(a) In general.—Section 1059 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading—

(A) by striking “separated for” and inserting “who commit”; and

(B) by inserting “; health care” after “exchange benefits”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “PUNITIVE AND OTHER ADVERSE ACTIONS COVERED” and inserting “COVERED MEMBERS”; 

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “offense.” and inserting “offense; or”; and

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

“(3) who is not described in paragraph (1) or (2) and whose former spouse alleges that the member committed a dependent-abuse offense—
“(A) during the marriage to the former spouse;

“(B) for which the applicable statute of limitations has not lapsed; and

“(C) that an incident determination committee determines meets the criteria for abuse.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ‘”; and’’ and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘”; and’’; and

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

“(C) in the case of a member described in subsection (b)(3), shall commence upon the date of the final decree of divorce, dissolution, or annulment of that member from the former spouse described in such subsection.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN FORMER SPOUSES.—The Secretary concerned shall treat a former spouse described in subsection (b)(3) as an abused dependent described in section 1076(e) of this title.”.
(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1059 and inserting the following:

“1059. Dependents of members who commit dependent abuse: transitional compensation; commissary and exchange benefits; health care.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply to a former spouse described in subsection (b)(3) of such section 1059, as added by subsection (a)(2) of this section, whose final decree of divorce, dissolution, or annulment described in subsection (e)(1)(C) of such section 1059, as added by subsection (a)(3) of this section, is issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 6. [log75016]. PAY FOR DOD AND COAST GUARD
CHILD CARE PROVIDERS: STUDIES; ADJUSTMENT.

(a) DOD Child Care Employee Compensation Review.—

(1) Review Required.—The Secretary of Defense shall, for each geographic area in which the Secretary of a military department operates a military child development center, conduct a study—

(A) comparing the total compensation, including all pay and benefits, of child care employees of each military child development center in the geographic area to the total compensation of similarly credentialed employees of public elementary schools in such geographic area; and

(B) estimating the difference in average pay and the difference in average benefits between such child care employees and such employees of public elementary schools.

(2) Schedule.—The Secretary of Defense shall complete the studies required under paragraph (1)—
(A) for the geographic areas containing the military installations with the 25 longest wait lists for child care services at military child development centers, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) for geographic areas other than geographic areas described in subparagraph (A), not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Coast Guard committees a report summarizing the results of the studies required under paragraph (1) that have been completed as of the date of the submission of such report.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the completion of all the studies required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Coast Guard committees a report summarizing the results of such studies.
(b) COAST GUARD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION REVIEW.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, for each geographic area in which the Secretary operates a Coast Guard child development center, conduct a study—

(A) comparing the total compensation (including all pay and benefits) of child development center employees of each Coast Guard child development center in such geographic area, to the total compensation of similarly credentialed employees of public elementary schools in such geographic area; and

(B) estimating the difference in average pay and the difference in average benefits between such child development center employees and such employees of public elementary schools.

(2) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall complete the studies required under paragraph (1)—

(A) for the geographic areas containing the Coast Guard installations with the 10 longest wait lists for child development services at Coast Guard child development centers, not
(B) for geographic areas other than geographic areas described in subparagraph (A), not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Coast Guard committees and the congressional defense committees a report summarizing the results of the respective studies required under paragraph (1) that the Secretary has completed as of the date of the submission of such report.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the completion of all respective studies required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Coast Guard committees and the congressional defense committees a report summarizing the results of such studies.

(c) COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—
(A) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense completes the study for a geographic area under subsection (a), the Secretary of each military department that operates a military child development center in such geographic area shall ensure that the dollar value of the total compensation, including the pay and benefits, of child care employees is not less than the average dollar value of the total compensation of similarly credentialed employees of public elementary schools in such geographic area.

(B) COAST GUARD.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security completes the study for a geographic area under subsection (b), the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall ensure that the dollar value of the total compensation, including the pay and benefits, of child development center employees in such geographic area is not less than the average dollar value of the total compensation of similarly credentialed employees of public elementary schools in such geographic area.
(2) ADJUSTMENT LIMIT.—No child care employee or child development center employee may have his or her pay or benefits decreased pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, each Secretary of a military department shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Coast Guard committees a report detailing the effects of changes in the total compensation under this subsection, including the effects on the hiring and retention of child care employees and on the number of children for which military child development centers provide child care services.

(B) COAST GUARD.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Coast Guard committees and the congressional defense committees a report detailing the effects of changes in the total compensation under this subsection, including the effects on
the hiring and retention of child development center employees and on the number of children for which Coast Guard child development centers provide child development services.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “benefits” includes—

(A) retirement benefits;

(B) any insurance premiums paid by an employer;

(C) education benefits, including tuition reimbursement and student loan repayment; and

(D) any other compensation an employer provides to an employee for service performed as an employee (other than pay), as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense or Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable.

(2) The terms “child care employee” and “military child development center” have the meanings given such terms in section 1800 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The terms “child development center employee” and “Coast Guard child development center” have the meanings given such terms in section 2921 of title 14, United States Code.
(4) The term “Coast Guard committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

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

(C) the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(5) The term “congressional defense committees” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(6) The term “elementary school” means a day or residential school which provides elementary education, as determined under State law.

(7) The term “pay” includes the basic rate of pay of an employee and any additional payments an employer pays to an employee for service performed as an employee.
SEC. 6. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR BEREA
MEMENT LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES.

(a) EXPANSION.—Section 701(m) of title 10, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (3) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) a spouse;

“(B) a son or daughter; or

“(C) a parent.

“(4) In this section, the term ‘son or daughter’ means—

“(A) a biological, adopted, step, or foster son or daughter of the individual;

“(B) a person who is a legal ward of the member, or was a legal ward of the individual when the person was a minor or otherwise required a legal guardian; or

“(C) a person for whom the member stands in loco parentis or stood in loco parentis when the person was a minor or otherwise required the individual to stand in loco parentis.

“(5) In this section, the term ‘parent’ means—

“(A) a biological, adoptive, step, or foster parent of the individual, or a person who was a foster
parent of the individual when the individual was a minor;

“(B) a legal guardian of the individual, or person who was a legal guardian of the individual when the individual was a minor or otherwise required a legal guardian; or

“(C) a person who stands in loco parentis to the member or stood in loco parentis when the individual was a minor or otherwise required a person to stand in loco parentis.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the latter of July 3, 2022, and the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 6. [log75073]. STUDY AND REPORT ON BARRIERS TO HOME OWNERSHIP FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center or non-profit entity to conduct a study on the barriers to home ownership for members of the Armed Forces. At the conclusion of such study, the Secretary shall submit, to the appropriate congressional committees, a report containing the following elements:

(1) Potential barriers to such home ownership, including down payments, concerns about home maintenance, and challenges in selling a home.

(2) The percentage of members who use the basic allowance for housing to pay for a mortgage, disaggregated by Armed Force, rank, and military housing area.

(3) Any identified differences in home ownership rates among members correlated with race or gender.

(4) What percentage of members own a home before separating from the Armed Forces.
(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Defined.—In this section, the term “appropria
tive congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The Committee on Armed Services of the
House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee on Armed Services of the
Senate.

(3) The Committee on Transportation and In-
frastructure of the House of Representatives.

(4) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation of the Senate.
SEC. 6. [log75215]. EXPANSION OF AUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE FOR PROVIDERS OF CHILD CARE SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) EXPANSION.—Section 1798 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “financial assistance” each place it appears and inserting “covered assistance”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) COVERED ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered assistance’ includes—

“(1) financial assistance; and

“(2) free or reduced-cost child care services furnished by the Secretary.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended by striking “financial”.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 88 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1798 and inserting the following:

“1798. Child care services and youth program services for dependents: assistance for providers.”.
SEC. 6. [log75303]. AUTHORIZATION OF PERMISSIVE TEMPORARY DUTY FOR WELLNESS.

In order to reduce the rate of suicides in the Armed Forces, the Secretary of each military department may prescribe regulations that authorize a member of an Armed Force under the jurisdiction of such Secretary to take not more than two weeks of permissive temporary duty each year to attend a seminar, retreat, workshop, or outdoor recreational therapy event—

(1) hosted by a non-profit organization; and

(2) that focuses on psychological, physical, spiritual, or social wellness.
SEC. 7 [Log 74991]. CLARIFICATIONS RELATING TO ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COMPREHENSIVE AUTISM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM BY NATIONAL ACADEMIES.

(a) CLARIFICATIONS.—Section 737 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 1800) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “broadly” after “disorder”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “parental involvement in applied behavior analysis treatment, and” after “including”;

(C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) A review of the health outcomes, including mental health outcomes, for individuals who have received applied behavioral analysis treatments over time.”;

(D) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “, since the inception of such program,” after “demonstration program”; 

(E) in subparagraph (F), by striking “effectiveness” and inserting “cost effectiveness,
program effectiveness, and clinical effectiveness’’;

(F) in subparagraph (G), by inserting “than in the general population” after “military families’’;

(G) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (I); and

(H) by inserting after subparagraph (G), as amended by subparagraph (F) of this paragraph, the following new subparagraph:

“(H) An analysis on whether the diagnosis and treatment of autism is more prevalent among the children of military families than in the general population.”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “nine months” and inserting “two years and seven months”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.— Such section is further amended by striking “demonstration project” each place it appears and inserting “demonstration program”.


SEC. 7. [Log 75175]. CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF CERTAIN AREOLAR NIPPLE TATTOOING PROCEDURES UNDER TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE PROGRAM.—Section 1079(a)(11)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(including two-dimensional and three-dimensional areolar nipple tattooing)” after “breast reconstructive surgery”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to breast reconstructive surgeries provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 7. [Log 75427]. AUDIT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CARE NETWORK PROVIDERS LISTED IN TRICARE DIRECTORY.

(a) AUDIT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an audit of the behavioral health care providers listed in the TRICARE directory.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the audit under subsection (a). Such report shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the following, disaggregated by provider specialty and TRICARE region:

(A) The number of such behavioral health care providers with respect to which there are duplicate listings in the TRICARE directory.

(B) The number of such behavioral health care providers that, as of the commencement of the audit, were listed in the TRICARE directory as available and accepting new TRICARE patients.

(C) The number of such behavioral health care providers that, as a result of the audit, the
Secretary determines are no longer available or accepting new TRICARE patients.

(D) The number of such behavioral health care providers that were not previously listed in the TRICARE directory as available and accepting new TRICARE patients but that, as a result of the audit, the Secretary determines are so available and accepting.

(E) The number of behavioral health care providers listed in the TRICARE directory that are no longer practicing.

(F) The number of behavioral health care providers that, in conducting the audit, the Secretary of Defense could not reach for purposes of verifying information relating to availability or status.

(2) An identification of the number of TRICARE beneficiaries in each TRICARE region, disaggregated by beneficiary category.

(3) A description of the methods by which the Secretary measures the following:

(A) The accessibility and accuracy of the TRICARE directory, with respect to behavioral health care providers listed therein.
(B) The adequacy of behavioral health care providers under the TRICARE program.

(4) A description of the efforts of the Secretary to recruit and retain behavioral health care providers.

(5) Recommendations by the Secretary, based on the findings of the audit, on how to improve the availability of behavioral health care providers that are network providers under the TRICARE program, including through the inclusion of specific requirements in the next generation of TRICARE contracts.

c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “TRICARE directory” means the directory of network providers under the TRICARE program.

(2) The term “TRICARE program” has the meaning given such term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 7. CLARIFICATION OF LICENSE PORTABILITY FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS PROVIDING SERVICES UNDER RESERVE HEALTH READINESS PROGRAM.

For purposes of license portability under paragraph (1) of section 1094(d) of title 10, United States Code, a health care provider who provides medical or dental services under the Reserve Health Readiness program of the Department of Defense (or any successor program) and meets the requirements specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) of such section shall be considered a health-care professional described in such paragraph.
SEC. 7. NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING SERVICES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES.

Section 1781 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(d) NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING SERVICES.—(1) In carrying out the duties of the Office under subsection (b), the Director of Military Family Readiness Policy may coordinate programs and activities for the provision of non-medical counseling services to military families through the Military and Family Counseling Program.

“(2) Notwithstanding any law regarding the licensure or certification of mental health professionals, a mental health professional described in paragraph (3) may provide non-medical counseling services through the Military and Family Counseling Program at any location in a State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, without regard to where the provider or recipient of such services is located or the mode of the delivery of such services, if the provision of such services is within the scope of the authorized Federal duties of the professional.

“(3) A mental health professional described in this paragraph is an individual who is—
“(A) a mental health professional who holds a current license or certification that is—

“(i) issued by a State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States; and

“(ii) recognized by the Secretary of Defense;

“(B) a member of the uniformed services, a civilian employee of the Department of Defense, or a contractor designated by the Secretary of Defense; and

“(C) performing authorized duties for the Department of Defense under a program or as part of an activity referred to in paragraph (1).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘Military and Family Counseling Program’ means the Military and Family Counseling Program of the Department of Defense, or any successor program.

“(2) The term ‘non-medical counseling services’ means mental health care services that—

“(A) are non-clinical, short-term, and solution-focused; and
“(B) address topics related to personal growth, development, and positive functioning.”.
SEC. 7. MANDATORY TRAINING ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

The Secretary of Defense shall provide to each medical provider of the Department of Defense mandatory training with respect to the potential health effects of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.
SEC. 7 [Log 74996]. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE UNDER MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM.

(a) EXPANSION OF CERTAIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AT THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish graduate degree-granting programs in counseling and social work at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

(2) EXPANSION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall take such steps as may be necessary to expand the clinical psychology graduate program of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

(3) POST-AWARD EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATION.—

(A) AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARY.—Subject to subparagraph (B), as a condition of enrolling in a degree-granting program in clinical psychology, social work, or counseling at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a civilian student shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Defense pursu-
ant to which the student agrees that, if the stu-
dent does not become a member of a uniformed
service upon graduating such program, the stu-
dent shall work on a full-time basis as a covered
civilian behavioral health provider for a period
of a duration that is at least equivalent to the
period during which the student was enrolled in
such program.

(B) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An
agreement entered into pursuant to subpara-
graph (A) may include such other terms and
conditions as the Secretary of Defense may de-
termine necessary to protect the interests of the
United States or otherwise appropriate for pur-
poses of this section, including terms and condi-
tions providing for limited exceptions from the
employment obligation specified in such sub-
paragraph.

(C) REPAYMENT.—A civilian graduate who
does not complete the employment obligation
required under the agreement entered into pur-
suant to subparagraph (A) shall repay to the
Secretary of Defense a prorated portion of the
student’s costs of attendance in the program
described in such paragraph. The amount of
such prorated portion shall be determined by
the Secretary.

(D) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall
apply to civilian students who enroll in the first
year of a degree-granting program in clinical
psychology, social work, or counseling at the
Uniformed Services University of the Health
Sciences on or after the date of the enactment
of this Act.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than
one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
the Secretary shall submit to the congressional de-
defense committees a plan for the implementation of
this subsection. Such plan shall include—

(A) a determination as to the resources for
personnel and facilities required for such imple-
mentation;

(B) estimated timelines for such implemen-
tation; and

(C) a projection of the number of grad-
uates from the programs specified in paragraph
(1) upon the completion of such implementa-
tion.

(b) SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CI-
vilian Behavioral Health Providers.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a program under which—

(A) the Secretary may provide—

(i) direct grants to cover tuition, fees, living expenses, and other costs of attendance at an institution of higher education to an individual enrolled in a program of study leading to a graduate degree in clinical psychology, social work, counseling, or a related field (as determined by the Secretary); and

(ii) student loan repayment assistance to a credentialed behavioral health provider who has a graduate degree in clinical psychology, social work, counseling, or a related field (as determined by the Secretary); and

(B) in exchange for such assistance, the recipient shall commit to work as a covered civilian behavioral health provider in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) POST-AWARD EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATIONS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), as a condition of receiving assistance under paragraph (1), the recipient of such assistance shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Defense pursuant to which the recipient agrees to work on a full-time basis as a covered civilian behavioral health provider for a period of a duration that is at least equivalent to the period during which the recipient received assistance under such paragraph.

(B) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An agreement entered into pursuant to subparagraph (A) may include such other terms and conditions as the Secretary of Defense may determine necessary to protect the interests of the United States or otherwise appropriate for purposes of this section, including terms and conditions providing for limited exceptions from the post-award employment obligation specified in such subparagraph.

(3) REPAYMENT.—An individual who receives assistance under paragraph (1) and does not complete the employment obligation required under the agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (2) shall repay to the Secretary of Defense a prorated
portion of the financial assistance received by the individual under paragraph (1). The amount of such prorated portion shall be determined by the Secretary.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the implementation of this subsection. Such plan shall include—

(A) a determination as to the resources required for such implementation;

(B) estimated timelines for such implementation; and

(C) a projection of the number of recipients of assistance under paragraph (1) upon the completion of such implementation.

(c) REPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct an analysis of the behavioral health workforce under the direct care component of the TRICARE program and submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the re-
results of such analysis. Such report shall include, with respect to such workforce, the following:

(A) The number of positions authorized for military behavioral health providers within such workforce, and the number of such positions filled, disaggregated by the professions described in paragraph (2).

(B) The number of positions authorized for civilian behavioral health providers within such workforce, and the number of such positions filled, disaggregated by the professions described in paragraph (2).

(C) For each military department, the ratio of military behavioral health providers assigned to military medical treatment facilities compared to civilian behavioral health providers so assigned, disaggregated by the professions described in paragraph (2).

(D) For each military department, the number of military behavioral health providers authorized to be embedded within an operational unit, and the number of such positions filled, disaggregated by the professions described in paragraph (2).
(E) Data on the historical demand for behavioral health services by members of the Armed Forces.

(F) An estimate of the number of health care providers necessary to meet the demand by such members for behavioral health care services under the direct care component of the TRICARE program, disaggregated by provider type.

(G) An identification of any shortfall between the estimated number under subparagraph (F) and the total number of positions for behavioral health providers filled within such workforce.

(H) Such other information as the Secretary may determine appropriate.

(2) PROVIDER TYPES.—The professions described in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) Clinical psychologists.

(B) Social workers.

(C) Counselors.

(D) Such other professions as the Secretary may determine appropriate.

(d) PLAN TO ADDRESS SHORTFALLS IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE.—Not later than 180 days after the
date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
to the congressional defense committees a plan to address
any shortfall of the behavioral health workforce identified
under subsection (e)(1)(G). Such plan shall address the
following:

(1) With respect to any such shortfall of military behavioral health providers (addressed separately with respect to such providers assigned to military medical treatment facilities and such providers assigned to be embedded within operational units), the recruitment, accession, retention, special pay and other aspects of compensation, workload, role of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program under chapter 105 of title 10, United States Code, any additional authorities or resources necessary for the Secretary to increase the number of such providers, and such other considerations as the Secretary may consider appropriate.

(2) With respect to addressing any such shortfall of civilian behavioral health providers, the recruitment, hiring, retention, pay and benefits, workload, educational scholarship programs, any additional authorities or resources necessary for the Sec-
retary to increase the number of such providers, and such other considerations as the Secretary may consider appropriate.

(3) A recommendation as to whether the number of military behavioral health providers in each military department should be increased, and if so, by how many.

(4) A plan to ensure that remote installations are prioritized for the assignment of military behavioral health providers.

(5) Updated access standards for behavioral health care under the military health system, taking into account—

(A) the duration of time between a patient receiving a referral for such care and the patient receiving individualized treatment (following an initial intake assessment) from a behavioral health provider; and

(B) the frequency of regular follow-up appointments subsequent to the first appointment at which a patient receives such individualized treatment.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) The term “behavioral health” includes psychiatry, clinical psychology, social work, counseling, and related fields.

(2) The term “civilian behavioral health provider” means a behavioral health provider who is a civilian employee of the Department of Defense.

(3) The term “cost of attendance” has the meaning given that term in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll).

(4) The term “counselor” means an individual who holds—

(A) a master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited graduate program in—

   (i) marriage and family therapy; or

   (ii) clinical mental health counseling;

and

(B) a current license or certification from a State that grants the individual the authority to provide counseling services as an independent practitioner in the respective field of the individual.

(5) The term “covered civilian behavioral health provider” means a civilian behavioral health provider whose employment by the Secretary of Defense in-
volves the provision of behavioral health services at a military medical treatment facility.

(6) The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(7) The term “military behavioral health provider” means a behavioral health provider who is a member of the Armed Forces.

(8) The term “military installation” has the meaning given that term in section 2801 of title 10, United States Code.

(9) The term “military medical treatment facility” means a facility specified in section 1073d of such title.

(10) The term “remote installation” means a military installation that the Secretary determines to be in a remote location.

(11) The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States.

(12) The term “TRICARE program” has the meaning given that term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 7. [Log 75000]. OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY

FOR STUDIES AND DEMONSTRATION

PROJECTS RELATING TO DELIVERY OF

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE.

Section 1092(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants)” after “contracts”.
SEC. 7. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENT TO TRANSFER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNCTIONS TO DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.

Section 1073c of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “September 30, 2022” and inserting “September 30, 2023”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command” and inserting “such elements and functions of the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command as the Secretary determines appropriate”; 

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (h) and (i); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may not take any action to exclude an element or function of the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command from organization under or transfer to the Defense
Health Agency Research and Development pursuant to a determination referred to in subsection (e)(1)(B) unless—

“(1) the Secretary submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing an explanation of the determination and a plan for the proposed exclusion; and

“(2) a period of 90 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary submits such report.”.
SEC. 7. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT TO TRANSFER PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS TO DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.

Section 1073c(e)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “A subordinate” and inserting “(A) A subordinate”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii);

(3) in clause (ii), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “comprised of” and inserting “except as provided in subparagraph (B), comprised of”; and

(B) by striking “Command” each place it appears and inserting “Center”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) At the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department may retain an element or function that would otherwise be organized under or transferred to the Defense Health Agency Public Health pursuant to subpara-
graph (A)(ii) if the Secretary of Defense determines such element or function—

“(i) addresses a need that is unique to that military department; and

“(ii) is in direct support of operating forces and necessary to implement national security or defense strategies.

“(C) The Secretary of a military department may not take any action to retain an element or function pursuant to a determination by the Secretary of Defense referred to in subparagraph (B) unless—

“(i) the Secretary of Defense submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing an explanation of such determination and a plan for the proposed retention; and

“(ii) a period of 90 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary submits such report.”.
SEC. 7. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS RELATING TO CIVILIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.

(a) Internship Programs for Civilian Behavioral Health.—

(1) Establishment of Programs.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish paid pre-doctoral and post-doctoral internship programs for the purpose of training clinical psychologists to work as covered civilian behavioral health providers.

(2) Employment Obligation.—

(A) In general.—Subject to subparagraph (B), as a condition of participating in an internship program under paragraph (1), the participant shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Defense pursuant to which the participant agrees to work on a full-time basis as a covered civilian behavioral health provider for a period of a duration that is at least equivalent to the period of participation in such internship program.

(B) Other terms and conditions.—An agreement entered into pursuant to subparagraph (A) may include such other terms and
conditions as the Secretary of Defense may de-
termine necessary to protect the interests of the
United States or otherwise appropriate for pur-
poses of this section, including terms and condi-
tions providing for limited exceptions from the
employment obligation specified in such sub-
paragraph.

(3) REPAYMENT.—An individual who partici-
pates in an internship program under paragraph (1)
and does not complete the employment obligation re-
quired under the agreement entered into pursuant to
paragraph (2) shall repay to the Secretary of De-
fense a prorated portion of the cost of administering
such program with respect to such individual and of
any payment received by the individual under such
program. The amount of such prorated portion shall
be determined by the Secretary.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than
one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the con-
gressional defense committees a plan for the imple-
mentation of this subsection. Such plan shall include
an explanation of how the Secretary will adjust the
workload and staffing of behavioral health providers
in military medical treatment facilities to ensure suf-
icient capacity to supervise participants in the internship programs under paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “behavioral health” includes psychiatry, clinical psychology, social work, counseling, and related fields.

(2) The term “covered civilian behavioral health provider” means a civilian behavioral health provider whose employment by the Secretary of Defense involves the provision of behavioral health services at a military medical treatment facility.

(3) The term “civilian behavioral health provider” means a behavioral health provider who is a civilian employee of the Department of Defense.

(4) The term “military medical treatment facility” means a facility specified in section 1073d of such title.
SEC. 7—LIMITATION ON REALIGNMENT OR REDUCTION OF MILITARY MEDICAL MAN-NING END STRENGTH: CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AND OTHER REFORMS.

(a) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the limitation under section 719 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 133 Stat. 1454), as most recently amended by section 731 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 1795), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries concerned may not realign or reduce military medical end strength authorizations during the period described in paragraph (2), and after such period, may not realign or reduce such authorizations unless—

(A) the report is submitted under subsection (b); and

(B) the certification is submitted under subsection (c).

(2) COVERED PERIOD.—The period described in this paragraph is a period of at least three years that begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.
(b) Report on Composition of Military Medical Workforce Requirements.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall conduct an assessment of military medical manning requirements and submit to Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the findings of such assessment. Such assessment shall be informed by the following:

(1) The National Defense Strategy submitted under section 113(g) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The National Military Strategy prepared under section 153(b) of such title.

(3) The campaign plans of the combatant commands.

(4) Theater strategies.


(6) The plan of the Department of Defense on integrated medical operations, as updated pursuant to paragraph (1) of section 724(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 1793; 10 U.S.C. 1096 note).
(7) The plan of the Department of Defense on global patient movement, as updated pursuant to paragraph (2) of such section.

(8) The biosurveillance program of the Department of Defense established pursuant to Department of Defense Directive 640.02 (relating to biosurveillance).

(9) Requirements for graduate medical education.


(12) Such other reports as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House
of Representatives and the Senate a certification containing the following:

(1) A certification of the completion of a comprehensive review of military medical manning, including with respect to the medical corps (or other health- or medical-related component of a military department), designator, profession, occupation, and rating of medical personnel.

(2) A justification for any proposed increase, realignment, reduction, or other change to the specialty and occupational composition of military medical end strength authorizations, which may include compliance with a requirement or recommendation set forth in a strategy, plan, or other matter specified in subsection (b).

(3) A certification that, in the case that any change to such specialty or occupational composition is required, a vacancy resulting from such change may not be filled with a position other than a health- or medical-related position until such time as there are no military medical billets remaining to fill the vacancy.

(4) A risk analysis associated with the potential realignment or reduction of any military medical end strength authorizations.
(5) An identification of any plans of the Department to backfill military medical personnel positions with civilian personnel.

(6) A plan to address persistent vacancies for civilian personnel in health- or medical-related positions, and a risk analysis associated with the hiring, onboarding, and retention of such civilian personnel, taking into account provider shortfalls across the United States.

(7) A comprehensive plan to mitigate any risk identified pursuant to paragraph (4) or (6), including with respect to funding necessary for such mitigation across fiscal years.

(d) INTERIM BRIEFINGS AND FINAL REPORT.—

(1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than April 1, 2023, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on how the Secretary plans to meet the report requirement under subsection (b) and the certification requirement under subsection (c).

(2) BRIEFING ON PROGRESS.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
resentatives and the Senate a briefing on the progress made towards completion of such requirements.

(3) Final report.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a final report on the completion of such requirements. Such final report shall be in addition to the report required under subsection (b) and the certification required under subsection (c).

(e) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) The term “medical personnel” has the meaning given such term in section 115a(e) of such title.

(2) The term “theater strategy” means an overarching construct outlining the vision of a combatant commander for the integration and synchronization of military activities and operations with other national power instruments to achieve the strategic objectives of the United States.
SEC. 7. [Log 75204]. AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE EARLY LITERACY AMONG CERTAIN YOUNG CHILDREN AS PART OF PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE.

(a) PROGRAM.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1109 the following new section (and conforming the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

§ 1109A. Authority for program to promote early literacy among certain young children as part of pediatric primary care

“(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a program to promote early literacy among young children the caregivers of whom are members of the armed forces as part of the pediatric primary care of such children.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities under the program under subsection (a) shall be evidence-informed and include the following:

“(1) The provision to pediatric primary care providers and other appropriate personnel of the Department of training on early literacy promotion.
“(2) The purchase and distribution of age-appropriate books to covered caregivers.

“(3) The modification of waiting rooms in military medical treatment facilities, including in specific clinics within such facilities, to ensure such waiting rooms include materials that reinforce language-rich interactions between young children and their covered caregivers, including a full selection of literature for young children.

“(4) The dissemination to covered caregivers of education materials on pediatric early literacy.

“(5) Such other activities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(c) LOCATIONS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may conduct the activities under subsection (b) at any military medical treatment facility.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered caregiver’ means a member of the armed forces who is a caregiver of a young child.

“(2) The term ‘young child’ means any child from birth to the age of five years old, inclusive.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the extent to which the authority under section 1109A(a) of title 10, United States Code, (as added by subsection (a)) is used, including a description of any activities carried out under the program so authorized.
SEC. 7. BRAIN HEALTH INITIATIVE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries concerned, shall establish a comprehensive initiative for brain health to be known as the “Warfighter Brain Health Initiative” (in this section referred to as the “Initiative”) for the purpose of unifying efforts and programs across the Department of Defense to improve the cognitive performance and brain health of members of the Armed Forces.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Initiative shall be the following:

(1) To enhance, maintain, and restore the cognitive performance of members of the Armed Forces through education, training, prevention, protection, monitoring, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, including through the following activities:

(A) The establishment of a program to monitor cognitive brain health across the Department of Defense, beginning upon the accession of a member to the Armed Forces and repeated at regular intervals thereafter, with the goal of detecting any need for cognitive en-
hancement or restoration resulting from potential brain exposures of the member, to mitigate possible evolution of injury or disease progression.

(B) The identification and dissemination of thresholds for blast pressure safety and associated emerging scientific evidence.

(C) The modification of high-risk training and operational activities to mitigate the negative effects of repetitive blast exposure.

(D) The identification of individuals who perform high-risk training or occupational activities, for purposes of increased monitoring of the brain health of such individuals.

(E) The development and operational fielding of non-invasive, portable, point-of-care medical devices, to inform the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury.

(F) The establishment of a standardized monitoring program that documents and analyzes blast exposures that may affect the brain health of members of the Armed Forces.

(G) The development of a resource that would set forth specific criteria used in the awarding of potential grants for research
projects relating to the direct correlation of environmental exposures and brain injuries to the brain health of members of the Armed Forces.

(H) The incorporation of the findings and recommendations of the report of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine titled “Traumatic Brain Injury: A Roadmap for Accelerating Progress” and published in 2022 (relating to the acceleration of progress in traumatic brain injury research and care), or any successor report, into activities of the Department relating to brain health, as applicable.

(2) To harmonize and prioritize the efforts of the Department of Defense into a single approach to brain health, to produce more efficient and effective results.

(c) Strategy and Implementation Plan.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a strategy and implementation plan of the Department of Defense to achieve the objectives of the Initiative under subsection (b).

(d) Annual Budget Justification Documents.—In the budget justification materials submitted
to Congress in support of the Department of Defense budget for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), the Secretary of Defense shall include a budget justification display that includes all activities of the Department relating to the Initiative.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than January 31, 2024, and annually thereafter until January 31, 2030, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the Initiative that includes the following:

(1) A description of the activities taken under the Initiative and resources expended under the Initiative during the prior fiscal year.

(2) A summary of the progress made during the prior fiscal year with respect to the objectives of the Initiative under subsection (b).

(f) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 7. [Log 74998]. INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY REVIEW PROCESS UNDER DIRECT CARE COMPONENT OF TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (in this section referred to as the “National Academies”) for the National Academies to carry out the activities described in subsections (b) and (c).

(2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into the agreement described in paragraph (1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ANALYSIS BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—

(1) ANALYSIS.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the National Academies shall conduct an analysis of the quality and patient safety review process for health care provided under the direct care component of the
TRICARE program and develop recommendations for the Secretary based on such analysis.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The analysis conducted and recommendations developed under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the direct care component, the following:

(A) An assessment of the procedures under such component regarding credentialing and privileging for health care providers (and an assessment of compliance with such procedures).

(B) An assessment of the processes under such component for quality assurance, standard of care, and incident review (and an assessment of compliance with such processes).

(C) An assessment of the accountability processes under such component for health care providers who are found to have not met a required standard of care.

(3) INFORMATION ACCESS AND PRIVACY.—

(A) ACCESS TO RECORDS.—Notwithstanding section 1102 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary shall provide the National Academies with access to such records of the Department of Defense as the Secretary may determine necessary for purposes of the Na-
tional Academies conducting the analysis and developing the recommendations under paragraph (1).

(B) PRIVACY OF INFORMATION.—In conducting the analysis and developing the recommendations under paragraph (1), the National Academies—

(i) shall maintain any personally identifiable information in records accessed by the National Academies pursuant to subparagraph (A) in accordance with applicable laws, protections, and best practices regarding the privacy of information; and

(ii) may not permit access to such information by any individual or entity not engaged in conducting such analysis or developing such recommendations.

(c) REPORT.—Under an agreement entered into between the Secretary and the National Academies under subsection (a), the National Academies, not later than one year after the date of the execution of the agreement, shall—

(1) submit to the congressional defense committees and (with respect to any findings concerning the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service
in the Department of the Navy) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the National Academies with respect to the analysis conducted and recommendations developed under subsection (b); and

(2) make such report available on a public website in unclassified form.

(d) TRICARE Program Defined.—In this section, the term “TRICARE program” has the meaning given such term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 7—[Log 75336]. SUICIDE CLUSTER: STANDARDIZED DEFINITION FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

(a) Standardization of Definition.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries concerned, shall develop, for use across the Armed Forces, a standardized definition for the term “suicide cluster”.

(b) Notification Required.—Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, whenever the Secretary determines the occurrence of a suicide cluster (as that term is defined pursuant to subsection (a)) among members of the Armed Forces, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of such determination.

(c) Coordination Required.—In developing the definition under subsection (a) and the process for submitting required notifications under subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall coordinate with the Secretaries concerned.

(d) Briefing.—Not later than April 1, 2023, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the following:
(1) The methodology being used in the development of the definition under subsection (a).

(2) The progress made towards the development of the process for submitting required notifications under subsection (b).

(3) An estimated timeline for the implementation of this section.

(c) definitions.—In this section:

(1) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(C) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

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

(2) the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Codes.
SEC. 7. GAO STUDY ON COVERAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS UNDER TRICARE PROGRAM AND RELATIONSHIP TO CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH PARITY LAWS.

(a) Study and report required.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study to identify and assess the similarities and differences with respect to coverage of mental health disorders under the TRICARE program and coverage requirements under mental health parity laws; and

(2) submit to the Secretary of Defense, the congressional defense committees, and (with respect to any findings concerning the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy), the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings of such study.

(b) Matters.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:
(1) A description of any overlaps or gaps between coverage requirements under the TRICARE program and under the mental health parity laws, with respect to treatment for the continuum of mental health disorders (including substance use disorder).

(2) An identification of any existing or anticipated effects of any such overlaps or gaps on access to care by TRICARE beneficiaries.

(3) An identification of denial rates under the TRICARE program for requests by TRICARE beneficiaries for coverage of mental or behavioral health care services, and the overturn rates of appeals for such requests, disaggregated by type of health care service.

(4) A list of each mental or behavioral health care provider type that is not an authorized provider type under the TRICARE program.

(5) An identification of any anticipated effects of modifying coverage requirements under the TRICARE program to bring such requirements into conformity with mental health parity laws, including an assessment of the following:

(A) Potential costs to the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security
(with respect to matters concerning the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy), and TRICARE beneficiaries as a result of such modification.

(B) The adequacy of the TRICARE program network to support such modification.

(C) Potential effects of such modification on access to care by TRICARE beneficiaries.

(D) Such other matters as may be determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretaries receives the report submitted under subsection (a), the Secretaries shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on any statutory changes the Secretaries determine necessary to close gaps in the coverage of mental health disorders under the TRICARE program, including any such gaps identified in the report, to bring such coverage into conformity with requirements under mental health parity laws.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “mental health parity laws” means—

(A) section 2726 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–26);
(B) section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185a);

(C) section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9812); or

(D) any other Federal law that applies the requirements under any of the sections described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), or requirements that are substantially similar to those provided under any such section, as determined by the Comptroller General.

(2) The term “TRICARE program” has the meaning given such term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.
SEC. 7. [Log 75214]. REPORT ON COMPOSITION OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL OF EACH MILITARY DEPARTMENT AND RELATED MATTERS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the composition of the medical personnel of each military department and related matters.

(b) MATTERS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) With respect to each military department, the following:

(A) An identification of the total number of medical personnel of the military department.

(B) An identification of the number of such medical personnel who are officers in a grade above O–6.

(C) An identification of the number of such medical personnel who are officers in a grade below O–7.
(D) An identification of the number of such medical personnel who are enlisted members.

(E) An assessment of potential issues relating to the composition of such medical personnel.

(F) A description of any plans of the Secretary to—

(i) reduce the total number of such medical personnel; or

(ii) eliminate any covered position for such medical personnel.

(G) A recommendation by the Secretary for the number of covered positions for such medical personnel that should be required for purposes of maximizing medical readiness (without regard to current statutory limitations, or potential future statutory limitations, on such number), presented as a total number for each military department and disaggregated by grade.

(2) An assessment of the advisability of establishing within the Department of the Air Force, by not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, a position of the Medical Officer
of the Space Force with the responsibilities of advising the Chief of Space Operations on all matters relating to health care for members of the Space Force and serving as the expert on such matters in working with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies on related issues.

(3) An assessment of the necessity of maintaining the position of the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, including—

(A) a comparison of the effects of filling such position with an officer in the grade of O–6 versus an officer in the grade of O–7;

(B) an assessment of potential issues associated with the elimination of such position; and

(C) a description of any potential effects of such elimination with respect to medical readiness.

(e) DISAGGREGATION OF CERTAIN DATA.—The data specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (b)(1) shall be presented as a total number and disaggregated by each medical component of the respective military department.

(d) CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSESSING CERTAIN SPACE FORCE MATTER.—In conducting the assessment pursuant to subsection (b)(2), the Secretary of Defense shall take
into consideration the tasks, operations, and specific health care considerations that accompany the space warfighting mission of the Space Force.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered position” means a position for an officer in a grade above O–6.

(2) The terms “enlisted member” and “officer” have the meanings given those terms in section 101(b) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “medical component” means—

(A) in the case of the Army, the Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Nurse Corps, Medical Service Corps, Veterinary Corps, and Army Medical Specialist Corps;

(B) in the case of the Air Force, members designated as medical officers, dental officers, Air Force nurses, medical service officers, and biomedical science officers; and

(C) in the case of the Navy, the Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Nurse Corps, and Medical Service Corps.

(4) The term “medical personnel” has the meaning given such term in section 115a(e) of title 10, United States Code.
(5) The term “military department” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of such title.
SEC. 7. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT PILOT PROGRAM RELATING TO MONITORING OF BLAST OVERPRESSURE EXPOSURE.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Director of the Defense Health Agency may conduct, as part of the initiative of the Department of Defense known as the “Warfighter Brain Initiative” (or any successor initiative), a pilot program under which the Director shall monitor blast overpressure exposure through the use of commercially available, off-the-shelf, wearable sensors, and document and evaluate data collected as a result of such monitoring.

(b) LOCATIONS.—Monitoring activities under a pilot program conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be carried out in each training environment that the Director determines poses a risk for blast overpressure exposure.

(c) DOCUMENTATION AND SHARING OF DATA.—If the Director conducts a pilot program pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall—

(1) ensure that any data collected pursuant to such pilot program that is related to the health effects of the blast overpressure exposure of a member of the Armed Forces who participated in the pilot program is documented and maintained by the Sec-
(2) to the extent practicable, and in accordance with applicable provisions of law relating to data privacy, make data collected pursuant to such pilot program available to other academic and medical researchers for the purpose of informing future research and treatment options.
SEC. 7 [Log 75423]. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP TO INDEPENDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Section 738(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 1801) is amended by inserting “, unless the individual is a retired member of the Armed Forces or a former civilian employee of the Department, or the individual is hired for the purpose of serving on such committee” after “Department of Defense”. 
SEC. 7. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF POLICY RELATING TO COMMAND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE AND REDUCTION OF MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA.

(a) REVIEW AND UPDATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2023, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall review and update the Department of Defense Instruction 6490.08, titled “Command Notification Requirements to Dispel Stigma in Providing Mental Health Care to Service Members”, or any successor instruction.

(2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the review and update of the instruction under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure the updated version—

(A) provides health care providers with clear guidance on the process and timeline for making a required command notification;

(B) provides for the protection of the privacy of mental health information shared through such notification process, including by—
(i) restricting access to such information to personnel for whom such specific knowledge is necessary for the conduct of official duties;

(ii) requiring that military commanders, and any other personnel with access to such information, treat such information as any other health information, including with respect to applicable privacy laws; and

(iii) setting forth updated training requirements for military commanders on the treatment of such information; and

(C) directs military commanders to take steps to further reduce the stigma of mental health among members of the Armed Forces, including by promoting mental health care as equivalent to other types of health care.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than April 1, 2023, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the progress made towards the completion of the review and update under subsection (a).
SEC. 7. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, VETERANS, AND MILITARY FAMILIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, shall develop a curriculum and certification program to provide civilian mental health professionals and students in mental health-related disciplines with the specialized knowledge and skills necessary to address the unique mental health needs of members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and military families.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after completing the development of the curriculum and certification program under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall implement such curriculum and certification program in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

(c) AUTHORITY TO DISSEMINATE BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary of Defense may disseminate best practices based on the curriculum and certification program developed and implemented under this section to other institutions of higher education.
(d) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the curriculum and certification program under this section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the termination date specified in subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the results of the curriculum and certification program developed and implemented under this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(2) The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).
SEC. 7. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF SELECTED RESERVE IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding section 2123 of title 10, United States Code, and in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of carrying out this section, each Secretary of a military department shall carry out a pilot program under which that Secretary may modify service obligations for certain individuals under the health professions scholarship and financial assistance program of that military department, to expand participation in such program to such individuals.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a), in addition to meeting the eligibility requirements under section 2122 of title 10, United States Code, an individual may not have previously been a member of the health professions scholarship and financial assistance program.

(c) CONDITIONS ON PARTICIPATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of participating in the pilot program under subsection (a), an individual eligible under subsection (b) shall enter
into an agreement with the Secretary of the military
department concerned pursuant to which the indi-
vidual agrees—

(A) to participate as a member of the
health professions scholarship and financial as-
sistance program of that military department;

(B) to complete courses of study and spe-
cialized training under such program in a
health profession discipline designated by that
Secretary as a critically needed wartime dis-
cipline; and

(C) upon completion of participation in
such program, to satisfy, in lieu of the active
duty obligation under section 2123 of title 10,
United States Code, a service obligation in the
Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of that
military department for the period described in
paragraph (2).

(2) LENGTH OF PERIOD OF SERVICE.—The pe-
period described in this paragraph is a period of time
of a length determined by the Secretary of the mili-
tary department concerned, except that such period
may not be shorter than a period equal to—

(A) each year of participation in the health
professions scholarship and financial assistance
program pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) multiplied by two and a half; plus

(B) if such participation was for a period of two years or fewer, an additional two and a half years.

(3) DETAILS OF SERVICE OBLIGATION.—Unless otherwise specified by the Secretary of the military department concerned—

(A) any period of time spent in intern or residency training shall not be creditable in satisfying the service obligation under paragraph (1)(C);

(B) any period of time used to satisfy another military service obligation shall not be creditable in satisfying the service obligation under paragraph (1)(C); and

(C) the period described in paragraph (2) shall be a consecutive period of time.

(4) FAILURE TO COMPLETE.—

(A) ALTERNATIVE OBLIGATIONS.—A participant in the pilot program under subsection (a) who is relieved of the service obligation under paragraph (1)(C) before the completion of that service obligation may be given, with or without the consent of the participant, either of
the following alternative obligations, as determined by the Secretary of the military department concerned:

(i) A service obligation in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of another military department for a period of time not less than the remaining service obligation of the participant.

(ii) Repayment to the Secretary of Defense of a percentage of the total cost incurred by the Secretary under such pilot program on behalf of the member pursuant to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) or 373 of title 37, United States Code.

(B) CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE ALTERNATIVE.—In addition to the alternative obligations specified in subparagraph (A), if a participant in the pilot program under subsection (a) is relieved of the service obligation under paragraph (1)(C) by reason of the separation of the participant because of a physical disability, the Secretary of the military department concerned may give the participant a service obligation as a civilian employee employed as a health care professional in
a facility of the uniformed services for a period
of time determined by that Secretary, but not
to exceed the remaining service obligation of the
participant.

(d) METRICS AND EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary of
Defense shall establish metrics, and carry out evaluations
using such metrics, to determine the effectiveness of the
pilot program under subsection (a).

(e) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the
pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate on Oc-
tober 1, 2027.

(f) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days prior to the
date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) ter-
minates, each Secretary of a military department shall
provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the
House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the
effectiveness of the pilot program.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The terms “course of study” and “special-
ized training” have the meaning given those terms
in section 2120 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The term “health professions scholarship
and financial assistance program” has the meaning
given the term “program” under such section.
(3) The term “member of the health professions scholarship and financial assistance program” has the meaning given the term “member of the program” under such section.
SEC. 9. [Log 75300]. REPORT ON POTENTIAL TRANSITION OF ALL MEMBERS OF SPACE FORCE INTO A SINGLE COMPONENT.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2023, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the proposal of the Air Force to transition the Space Force into a single component (in this section referred to as the Space Component)—

(1) that consists of all members of the Space Force, without regard to whether such a member is, under laws in effect at the time of the report, in the active or reserve component of the Space Force; and

(2) in which such members may transfer between duty statuses more freely than would otherwise be allowed under the laws in effect at the time of the report.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A plan that describes any rules, regulations, policies, guidance, and statutory provisions that may be implemented to govern—
(A) the ability of a member of the Space Component to transfer between duty statuses, the number of members authorized to make such transfers, and the timing of such transfers;

(B) the retirement of members of the Space Component, including the determination of a member’s eligibility for retirement and the calculation of the retirement benefits (including benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) to which the member would be entitled based on a career consisting of service in duty statuses of the Space Component; and

(C) the composition and operation of promotion selection boards with respect to members of the Space Component, including the treatment of general officers by such boards.

(2) A comprehensive analysis of how such proposal may affect the ability of departments and agencies of the Federal Government (including departments and agencies outside the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs) to accurately calculate the pay or determine the benefits, including health care benefits under chapter 55.
of title 10, United States Code, to which a member
or former member of the Space Component is enti-
tled at any given time.

(3) Draft legislative text, prepared by the Office
of Legislative Counsel within the Office of the Gen-
eral Counsel of the Department of Defense, that
comprehensively sets forth all amendments and
modifications to Federal statutes needed to effec-
tively implement the proposal described in subsection
(a), including—

(A) amendments and modifications to titles
10, 37, and 38, United States Code;

(B) amendments and modifications to Fed-
eral statutes outside of such titles; and

(C) an analysis of each provision of Fed-
eral statutory law that refers to the duty status
of a member of an Armed Force, or whether
such member is in an active or reserve compo-

ent, and, for each such provision—

(i) a written determination indicating
whether such provision requires amend-
ment or other modification to clarify its
applicability to a member of the Space
Component; and
(ii) if such an amendment or modification is required, draft legislative text for such amendment or modification.
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ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

B-21 Total Force Integration

The committee notes the success of the Total Force Integration models between the Air Force’s 509th Bomb Wing and the Missouri National Guard’s 131st Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base (AFB) and the Air Force Reserve Command 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale and Dyess AFBs. The Total Force Integration model improves the Air Force’s ability to conduct its mission through the sharing of resources between the Active Duty and the Reserve Components, including aircraft, crews, maintenance, training and support. The combined employment of manpower between the Active Duty and Reserve Components provides surge capacity and maximizes efficiency to ensure mission success.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, on the plans to pursue Total Force Integration with the B-21 fleet. This briefing shall include an updated Air Force bomber roadmap and the Air Force’s plans for the integration of the Guard and Reserve Component personnel in the organizational structure of the B-21 enterprise.

Cyber Mission Force Manning

The committee understands the critical importance of the Cyber Mission Force to national security. Moreover, the committee understands the Cyber Mission Force is U.S. Cyber Command’s action arm, and its teams execute the command’s mission to direct, synchronize, and coordinate cyberspace operations in defense of U.S. national interests. The committee also understands that some of the military services have had challenges in recruiting and retaining service member personnel within their component of the Cyber Mission Force.

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 June 1, 2023, that includes the following:

(1) each military service’s manning requirements in 2022, to include authorizations on hand for each Cyber Mission Force specialty. This should include historical analysis of the increases or decrease of the Cyber Mission Force since its inception in 2012;

(2) an analysis of the accession and retention challenges to each military service’s contribution to the Cyber Mission Force to include recommendations to mitigate these challenges;
(3) an assessment of the training and education requirements to each military service's contribution to the Cyber Mission Force, to include an inventory of any certifications required;
(4) an analysis of the competitive market forces affecting the accession and retention of service members in the Cyber Mission Force;
(5) an assessment of the main drivers that lead cyber-qualified service members to separate from the military;
(6) recommendations on methods to attract and retain individuals for cyber-related positions to include pay and compensation, career intermission, education and training, reimbursement for certifications, training with industry, and any other recommendations that should be considered; and
(7) the feasibility of a career, capability, and certification forum that would increase cyber career competency and career progression and potentially standardize certifications required for the cyber-related career fields in the military services.

GAO Review of Military Justice Criminal Litigation Resourcing, Manning, Training, and Career Progression

The military services' Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps provide new lawyers the opportunity to practice law in a wide variety of assignments and to gain a significant amount of trial experience earlier in their career than their private sector counterparts. However, the committee is concerned about the extent to which the services' current approach to training and managing judge advocates helps ensure that they are optimally positioned to meet the increasingly complex legal demands of today's military justice practice.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to review the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force training, resourcing, and management of Active Duty JAG military justice practitioners. The review should address the following elements:
(1) the structure and assignment process for the military services' military justice litigation positions, including defense counsel, trial counsel, special trial counsel, and military judges;
(2) the type and content of training required for and provided to all military justice litigators as they progress throughout their career;
(3) the amount and type of experience, if any, required for military justice litigators prior to assignment as defense counsel, trial counsel, special trial counsel, and military judge;
(4) the degree to which each military service utilizes a military justice career track or other related career progression management tool for judge advocates; and
(5) the extent to which the Department of Defense and the military services have addressed the manning, resourcing, training, and career progression
requirements for special trial counsel established in section 824a of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81).

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 31, 2023, with the Comptroller General's preliminary findings and present final results in a format and timeframe agreed to at the time of the briefing.

Gold Star Family Notifications and Definition

The committee sincerely appreciates the sacrifices of the Gold Star families that have faced loss due to a loved one’s death in the line of duty while serving in the United States military. The committee understands that some of these families may desire further contact with a unit or command with which their loved ones served.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2023, that addresses the following:

(1) any challenges on establishing a Department of Defense next-of-kin database;
(2) a rough order of magnitude on what a potential database may cost and how long it would take to put in place;
(3) the feasibility of offering an opt-in option for next of kin desiring further contact with units, commands, and military organizations;
(4) the feasibility and implications of defining Gold Star to exclusively refer to survivors of service members killed as a result of enemy action as defined in section 1126 of title 10, United States Code; and
(5) any other recommendation or policy changes that should be considered with the potential establishment of a next-of-kin database and further refining the definition of the term "Gold Star."

Increasing the Talent Pool of Aviators for the Air Force

The committee recognizes the lack of diversity among aviators in the Air Force and the long-term national security implications of a diminishing pool of qualified aviators. Reaching beyond the existing talent pool to find new pilots by using resources like Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) is critical to recruitment and readiness for the Air Force. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 28, 2023, on how the Air Force can engage with MSIs on developing innovative programs aimed at recruiting and training future pilots.

Individual Ready Reserve Management

The committee understands that Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) management was one of the leading issues from the Reserve Forces Policy Board’s
2020, “Improving the Total Force Report.” The committee also understands the 200,000 service members in the Individual Ready Reserve constitute roughly one-fifth of the U.S. military’s Selected Reserve. Members of the IRR have previously served on Active Duty or in drilling Reserve units and are serving out the remainder of their military service obligation. They are a body of trained soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who can be mobilized in the event of emergency or war. However, the Department of Defense struggles to maintain current contact information for members of the IRR despite annual “muster” requirements. In 2004, as the Army attempted to mobilize members of the IRR in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, it found that it had impartial or incorrect contact information for 40,000 of 114,000 IRR members. These issues have continued and span the military services. The Army has 77,454 IRR members and it lacks phone numbers for 10,740 and emails for 55,569. Only 33 percent of IRR members comply with requests to update contact information and attend mandatory musters. Only 20-30 percent of the Navy’s IRR members respond to the annual screening questionnaire. The Marine Corps only screen contact information for 55-60 percent of their population via email, phone, or text annually. The Air Force makes contact with approximately 44 percent of its IRR members each year.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2023, on the plan to ensure the Department of Defense and the military services are maintaining and updating IRR service member contact information on a frequent basis, the requirements to provide the best technological solution for the services, the security risks, costs, and timeline to include the potential benefits of a commercial portal option.

Joint Assignment Credit Reform

The committee appreciates that Department of Defense Instruction 1300.19 (Department of Defense Joint Officer Management (JOM) Program) recognizes certain civilian experiences and other assignments that have relevance to joint matters as applicable for joint duty assignment credit. However, the current process for officers to apply for and receive joint credit from valuable civilian or military experiences carrying out duties pertaining to national military strategy, multi-service acquisitions, or integrated force operations, is lengthy and requires approval from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness through the Combined Joint Chiefs of Staff. The lengthy time for this process and lack of standardization for which of these experiences meet the criteria for joint matters as defined in section 668 of title 10, United States Code, and section 6, Department of Defense Instruction 1300.19, can hinder officer career advancement and prevent uniquely qualified officers from obtaining positions that require a joint qualified officer designation.
Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, on whether a policy should be established to provide a O-8 in a service member's chain of command (Active or Reserve Component) the authority to approve joint experiences for joint duty assignment credit, provided that all documentation is submitted in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 1300.19 and that the experience meets the statutory definition of joint matters in chapter 38 of title 10, United States Code.

**Joint Staff Congressional Requests for Information Staffing**

The committee is concerned about extended delays in staffing by the Joint Staff in processing requests for information from Members of Congress with direct oversight responsibilities of the Department of Defense, including the Joint Staff. Therefore, the committee directs the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2023, on the processes, procedures, regulations, directives, measure of effectiveness, and timelines that govern the staffing of requests for information from Members of Congress.

**Marine Corps Reserve Joint Officer Qualification**

The committee understands the value of joint qualification for general and flag officers across the military. Moreover, the committee strongly supports the requirement for joint qualified officers to be educated, trained, and experienced in joint matters to enhance the joint warfighting capability and lethality of the United States through a heightened awareness of joint requirements, including multi-service, interagency, international, and non-governmental perspectives.

Therefore, the committee directs the Commandant of the Marine Corps to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2023, that provides the plan for a general officer of the Marine Corps Reserve to be designated as a joint qualified officer and how that plan will be sustained over time.

**National Guard and Reserve Community Outreach Program**

The committee understands the importance of community engagement for all components of the military. The committee also acknowledges the recommendation from the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to improve military outreach around the country. Expanded community-building efforts, including greater access to military bases and facilities via public tours, partnerships between National Guard and Reserve units and local schools, and enhanced promotion of military service by Members of Congress, will significantly increase engagement between the military and the broader American public, shatter myths, and provide a new generation of Americans with firsthand
information about military life. Moreover, recent data from the Department of Defense indicates the propensity to serve for young adults has declined over the last 10 years.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, that includes the following:

(1) ongoing National Guard and service Reserve Component outreach efforts in local communities and whether these efforts are codified as programs of record;

(2) any targeted recruiting efforts in underrepresented markets in terms of geographic location, academic institutions, fields of study, and other segments of the population eligible for recruitment;

(3) activities that build awareness and potential recruitment opportunities of the military in local communities;

(4) partnership activities with school districts, schools, and community service organizations that would help build enduring relationships in the local community;

(5) the cost of these outreach efforts, activities, and programs, to include those that have dedicated funding over the Future Years Defense Plan; and

(6) recommendations from the Department of Defense, National Guard, and service Reserve Components on steps needed to improve local community outreach efforts intended to build awareness of the military and positively increase the propensity to service to include funding, personnel, policy, and legislation.

National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance

The committee notes the challenges with approving and disbursing Federal Tuition Assistance funding since the adoption of the new Army Educational Services system ArmyIgnitED, in March 2021. Despite the committee's requests for additional information and an expedited resolution, the system has still not reached full functionality. National Guard and Reserve Component service members, who are more likely to be enrolled in college while serving, are disproportionally impacted by these challenges.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, that includes an evaluation of:

(1) whether it is feasible to permit States to administer and disburse Federal Tuition Assistance funding for National Guard and Reserve Component service members;

(2) how the Secretary plans to mitigate the backlog of tuition assistance requests while making sure that service members are not disadvantaged;
(3) how the States would have the ability to approve requests for obligations that are verified by the educational services support personnel and the respective educational institutions; and

(4) if States could be granted the option to opt-in or opt-out of using the ArmyIgnitED system for requesting, approving, and disbursing Federal Tuition Assistance funding.

National Guard State Active Duty Missions Report

The committee is interested in the effect of State Active Duty missions on overall readiness and availability of the National Guard in the event of the need for title 32, United States Code, or title 10, United States Code, activation of a National Guard unit. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2023, detailing how the Department of Defense evaluates the readiness, retention, and other factors of National Guard readiness in light of the requirement to support State Active Duty missions.

Public Service at Military Academies

The committee believes that fostering closer ties between civilian and military service is important for cross-agency collaboration and effectively carrying out the national security mission at the Department of Defense. Expanding civil service training opportunities will help to fill the numerous civilian and career placements to ensure that the Department has the employees it needs to continue to innovate and achieve its objectives. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than June 1, 2023, detailing what would be needed to implement a public service cadet program at each military service academy. Such a program would provide a path for civilians interested in a career in Federal service similar to that of Reserve Officers' Training Corps and military academy prospects. Upon graduation, cadets from the Federal service program would be required to serve for 5 years in the Federal Government in a civilian capacity. The program will help bridge the divide between civil and military servants.

The report shall include, but not be limited to, a study of the funding necessary to create the program, impacts on current enrollment of cadets at military academies, resources needed for recruitment, and expected outcomes for the Department’s investment in civil service recruitment.

Report on Feasibility of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Crew Preservation of the Force and Family Pilot Program

The committee continues to be concerned about the health and welfare of remotely piloted aircraft crews who are actively supporting combat operations from domestic locations and their access to a program directly comparable to the U.S.
Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Preservation of the Force and Family (POTFF) program. Therefore, the committee directs the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2023, that:

1. determines the health and welfare needs of the remotely piloted aircraft crews engaged in direct support of combat operations;
2. assesses the services offered to special operations personnel under the USSOCOM Preservation of the Force and Family program and develop a plan to offer comparable services and facilities to eligible service members;
3. works collaboratively with USSOCOM to understand the intent of the POTFF program and lessons learned from implementation in USSOCOM to determine applicability to the remotely piloted aircraft aircrew community; and
4. contains an assessment of the need and feasibility of such a program and the cost of establishment.

Report on Navy End Strength Request Process

The committee remains concerned that persistent shortfalls in the required number of personnel on board Navy ships poses risks to the safe and effective operation of ships and submarines. The committee is encouraged by the Navy’s efforts to address these shortfalls through ongoing improvements to its end strength request process. The committee directs the Chief of Naval Operations to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2023, on the process and any changes. The report should include the following elements:

1. the results of the Navy-wide review and refinement of mission requirements;
2. changes to the Manpower Requirements Determination process, and improvements to fleet and shore manpower modeling capabilities;
3. assessments of unfunded manpower requirements and long-term gapped billets, the resources required for filling them, and feasible timeframes for doing so;
4. the actions taken to implement and optimize personnel distribution processes; and
5. the status of personnel fit and fill by unit using manpower requirements.

Report on Sharing of Information on Domestic Violence Incidents

The committee notes that the Incident Determination Committees established at military installations are responsible for reviewing reported incidents of domestic violence and determining whether such incidents constitute serious harm to the victim according to the applicable criteria of the Department of Defense.

The committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by May 1, 2023,
reviewing the policies and regulations governing the Incident Determination Committees and incident determination notification letters. The review should address the following elements:

(1) how incident determination letters are used by commanders;
(2) if, and to what extent, incident determination letters are used by subjects and victims; and
(3) recommendations on how the process could be improved.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 31, 2023, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps Programs at Hispanic Serving Institutions

The committee notes the importance of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and the potential need to increase the number of ROTC programs offered at Hispanic Serving Institutions. This increase in ROTC detachments will help increase the opportunity of Hispanics from currently underserved minority institutions to serve and assist in increasing the diversity of military officers, which will present the opportunity to increase diversity in high-ranking leadership positions. Visibly increasing access to ROTC programs for Hispanic youth will result in an increase of Hispanics in the officer corps. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Service of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, that includes an assessment of:

(1) The feasibility of expanding the ROTC program to Hispanic Serving Institutions.
(2) The number of institutions qualifying as Hispanic Serving.
(3) The number of Hispanic Serving Institutions that qualify for an ROTC program.
(4) The cost of such an expansion to Hispanic Serving Institutions.
(5) The estimated total throughput of qualifying institutions.
(6) Any other elements that the Secretary deems relevant.

Study and Report on the Use of the Vessel Exception under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

The committee notes that Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), which authorizes non-judicial punishment, states that the right to demand a trial by court-martial does not apply to a member who is attached to or embarked on a vessel. The committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to review the Department of the Navy's use of the vessel exception and policies related to legal review of non-judicial punishment. The review should address the following elements:

(1) the process that the Department of the Navy uses to determine whether a service member is attached to or embarked on a vessel for the purpose of
determining whether the service member may decline non-judicial punishment and demand a court-martial;
(2) the use of legal review of proposed non-judicial punishment by the Department of the Navy;
(3) the availability of defense counsel for sailors and Marines subject to non-judicial punishment; and
(4) any other matters the Comptroller General deems necessary.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 31, 2023, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings and present final results in a format and timeframe agreed to at the time of the briefing.

TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Assessing Implementation of the Blended Retirement System

The committee recognizes that fiscal year 2023 will mark the fifth anniversary of the Department of Defense's implementation of the Blended Retirement System as enacted in title VI, subtitle D, part I of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92). The committee commends the Department for its efforts to ensure younger service members the proper access to robust financial security training for retirement and directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than April 1, 2023, on the status of the Blended Retirement System implementation. Such report shall analyze any data collected on the impacts of current training modules, include quantifiable outcomes that assess the impact of the Department's current financial security training from the year prior to implementation through fiscal year 2023, and detail an action plan that outlines additional tools and/or resources needed by the Department to further increase positive outcomes in enhancing financial literacy training for our service members.

Childcare Providers at Department of Defense Facilities

The committee is aware of the challenge of attracting sufficient childcare providers at Department of Defense installations, specifically the Child Development Centers, and that the Department is facing a challenge in having adequate facilities as well as sufficient numbers of childcare providers. Additionally, the significant backlog at many military installations for on-installation childcare for service members and their families is a concern. The COVID crisis has only exacerbated the challenge of finding enough childcare providers at both Department of Defense installations and in the surrounding community. Long waitlists for
childcare have been cited by many service members as a major quality-of-life challenge and, in some cases, has forced families to choose between work or providing childcare themselves. Given that the lack of childcare providers is also evident in many communities, these service members and their families don’t have alternative options. The committee is concerned that the Department of Defense has not taken any action to address the lack of childcare providers in several areas. The committee is aware that Department of Defense policy allows installation commanders to offer childcare providers up to a 20 percent discount if they have their children enrolled in that childcare center. It is unclear if that policy is a sufficient incentive to attract additional childcare providers.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, on how the Department of Defense intends to address the lack of childcare providers. Specifically, the report should include an analysis of the potential benefit of increasing the authority of installation commanders to offer a childcare discount of up to 100 percent, including potential budgetary impacts compared to the ability to attract additional childcare providers. The report shall also include additional incentive options that the Department of Defense could consider to attract additional childcare providers, including the budgetary impact of those additional incentives and whether additional authorities are needed to execute those recommendations. The report shall also include whether the Department of Defense would make any incentives Department-wide or whether they should be utilized by local installation commanders depending on local conditions.

Military Childcare Partnerships

The committee continues to be concerned about the availability of childcare for service members across the United States and therefore directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than June 1, 2023, that examines the feasibility of entering into grant agreements, cooperative agreements, or contracts with one or more public or private entities to build and operate childcare facilities to provide childcare to members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense. The report shall include a recommendation on whether to proceed with the establishment of a military childcare partnership and include an analysis of:

(1) public or private entities that have the capacity to build and operate childcare facilities to provide childcare to members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense;

(2) financial arrangements that could support a military childcare partnership, including agreements to fill a certain number of childcare slots with military or Department of Defense civilian children with the support of the fee
assistance program, as applicable, or other approaches as considered by the Secretary concerned;

(3) timeframes for establishing such partnerships and projected number of children who could be served, and the potential impact on childcare waitlists at installations with unmet demand;

(4) means to ensure that Department of Defense standards for safety and quality in childcare programs are met or exceeded by any military childcare partnership;

(5) initial cost estimates to the Department for a military childcare partnership;

(6) cost comparison of a potential military childcare partnership compared to a Department constructed and operated military child development center to include initial construction costs, staffing, and building maintenance costs over the life cycle of the project;

(7) any changes to statutory authorities needed to enable the military departments to enter into military childcare partnerships; and

(8) any changes to regulation needed to enable the military departments to enter into military childcare partnerships.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Crew Management

The committee continues to be concerned about the overall management of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) crews, not only long-term career management but increasingly whether they are provided with or have access to respite, mental health, and family support. Considering most of the crews have largely been deployed in place for the last 10 years, the committee believes the Air Force should have addressed the issues of work-life balance in this community, similar to a deploy-to-dwell tempo that is applicable for deployed forces. Also of concern is the characterization of the combat operations performed by these crews and the consideration of having been in combat for the purposes of recognition and access to combat-related benefits.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than April 1, 2023, on programs and services provided to personnel performing the duties of RPA aircrew. The report shall include;

(1) the number of officers and enlisted members performing duties as RPA aircrew (remotely piloted aircraft pilots, combat systems operators, and sensor operators) during the past 5 fiscal years;

(2) the retention rate of such officers and enlisted members during the past 5 fiscal years;

(3) the promotion rate of such officers and enlisted members during the past 5 fiscal years;

(4) the total amount of combat time in flight hours logged by officers and enlisted members performing RPA aircrew duties during the past 5 fiscal years;
(5) a description of the structure of incentive pay for officers and enlisted members performing RPA aircrew duties during the past 5 fiscal years;
(6) a description of the types of mental health support and benefits to all total force RPA operators and crew engaging in active combat operations;
(7) the current level of mental health services resourcing available at each major RPA operating location, specifically: (a) describe military treatment facility (MTF), non-MTF, and embedded resource; (b) describe the MTF wait times to receive care; (c) describe the availability or wait time to receive services from embedded care providers; (d) describe the availability of non-MTF and non-embedded care resources (i.e., chaplains, military family life counselors); (e) describe any resourcing successes and challenges;
(8) define the frequency of required mental health visits/appointments for RPA aircrew. When the frequency isn’t defined, what drives optional and mandatory mental health appointments or assessments;
(9) a description of all combat-related recognitions available to RPA aircrew members compared to combat-related recognitions available to aircrew members of traditionally piloted aircraft; and
(10) such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate to inform the congressional defense committees with respect to programs and services provided to Air Force personnel performing duties of RPA aircrew.

Report on Expansion of the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Program

The committee commends the Department of Defense for its work to expand the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus initiative. This initiative represents an important effort to expand access to community-based and family child care for military families, particularly in States with high concentrations of childcare need. As noted in the Department of Defense’s 2022 report to the committee on childcare best practices, only 9 percent of childcare centers and 2 percent of family childcare homes are accredited, while 63 percent of center-based programs and 52 percent of family childcare providers participate in the States’ Quality Rating and Improvement System. Despite progress expanding the initiative since its launch, the committee understands that specific challenges may delay or prevent expansion to certain States. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than January 31, 2023, detailing the expansion of the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus program. The briefing shall outline progress and challenges expanding the program with a particular focus on States with high concentrations of childcare need among military families. Further, the committee recognizes that access to child care remains an urgent need for military families across the country. Therefore, the committee encourages the Department of Defense to continue to explore new strategies to expand access to child care for military families both on military bases and within communities with high concentrations of military families.
Report on Military Spouse Employment Program Effectiveness

The committee is concerned about barriers to military spouse employment and therefore directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than April 1, 2023, that considers a standardized process to assess the performance of Military Spouse Employment programming and includes:

1. a comprehensive assessment of the performance of the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment programs, pilot programs, and initiatives meant to address military spouse unemployment.
2. an identification of costs and resources to maintain and sustain Military Spouse Employment programs, pilot programs, and initiatives meant to address military spouse unemployment.
3. an assessment of Military Spouse Employment programs' performance on employment rates by credentialed professionals requiring State licensing and other certifications.
4. an identification of State, local, and commercial partnerships within Military Spouse Employment programs and metrics on the number of spouses hired, broken down by entity and year.
5. an assessment on the rate or prevalence of military spouses who are enrolled in a Military Spouse Employment program who remain unemployed for more than 30 days following enrollment into a program, categorized by rank of sponsor, installation, and location.
6. an assessment on the impact of military spouses' ability to retain and seek new employment following a permanent change of station within the continental United States and overseas.
7. an assessment on the impact of military spouses' ability to participate in retirement contribution and employer matching opportunities following a permanent change of station.
8. an assessment of military spouse employment programs' ability to match spouses with employment opportunities that align with their level of education and professional background.
9. an assessment of barriers to military spouse employment program utilization.

The report shall also include information on barriers preventing the evaluation of military spouse employment program effectiveness such as availability of necessary data required to assess military spouse employment program effectiveness.

Report on Navy Tactical Air Control Squadron Flight Pay

The committee notes that operational training department heads assigned to Tactical Air Control Squadrons (TACRONs) chronically run into Aviation Incentive Pay (AvIP) gate issues that require a waiver granted by the Secretary of the Navy. The committee is concerned that every AvIP gate waiver request
submitted by a TACRON aviator has been summarily denied by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, irrespective of individual qualifications or previously established AvIP gate waiver practices. There are no other examples of a class of aviators being denied AvIP gate waivers based solely on the unit in which they currently serve. Using an applicant’s present assignment as a discriminator for waiver decisions is incompatible with current policy.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, evaluating the merit of denying TACRON aviators AvIP and the effect that will have on manning TACRONs in the future.

The committee further recommends the Secretary of the Navy return to the practice of evaluating each record in accordance with written policies, rather than relying on the requestor’s current tour as a disapproval criterion. The committee additionally recommends reevaluating all denied AvIP gate waivers for officers who submitted packages while serving at a TACRON during the affected timeframe and authorize back pay to the date of their original gate waiver request in accordance with appropriate Department of the Navy instructions.

Report on Student Services at Department of Defense Education Activity Schools

The committee continues to be interested in providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and considers this a priority for Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) schools. In the DODEA’s Blueprint for Continuous School Improvement, one of the critical success factors for achieving the goal of educating, engaging, and empowering students is to offer support for social and emotional learning by delivering comprehensive programming and supportive skills. An adequate number of school psychologists and student support staff in every DODEA school will permit the achievement of this goal. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 psychologist for every 500 students. However, DODEA’s school psychologist staffing ratio is 1:1,000. In an effort to sustain ongoing support to our military-connected students and schools, DODEA must continue providing a comprehensive student support services team of internal, external, and ancillary student support personnel. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, on findings of a review by the DODEA Inspector General of the quality and availability of school psychological services that includes a parent survey addressing these concerns. The review should explore student-to-staff ratios of student support services in accordance with national recommendations including school psychologists, school counselors, and trauma informed care supports.
Report on Transition from Overseas Housing Allowance to Basic Allowance for Housing on Guam

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than April 28, 2023, regarding the recommendation of the Secretary whether members of the uniformed services located in Guam and who receive the Overseas Housing Allowance should instead receive the Basic Allowance for Housing to ensure the most appropriate housing compensation for such members and their families.

Tuition Assistance for Doctoral Programs

The committee is aware that some of the military services do not allow the use of tuition assistance funds for the pursuit of doctoral degrees. The committee understands that tuition assistance funds are limited but that in some cases a doctoral degree may serve both the needs of the service member and the military service. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, on the tuition assistance policies of each military service regarding doctoral education along with a rationale for these policies and a recommendation on whether the services should modify their policies regarding tuition assistance and doctoral education.

Value of Service Member Compensation

The committee understands that pay and compensation are vital elements of service member recruitment and retention. The committee also understands the goals of military compensation include recompense for service, retention, the reward of effective work, assignability, transition, separation and retirement. However, the committee is concerned that current value of compensation and benefits is not keeping pace with inflation and geographic differences in the prices of goods, services, and housing in some locations. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2023, that includes the following:

(1) an assessment of the formulation of the Cost-of-Living Allowance and a discussion on whether that should be considered for expensive continental United States locations;

(2) an assessment of the Basic Allowance for Housing and how it adjusts to inflation and cost fluctuations in local rental markets;

(3) an assessment of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Basic Needs Allowance to ensure they are appropriately targeting service members in the appropriate pay grades and geographic locations;
(4) an assessment of whether a more expansive view of military compensation to include regular military compensation plus special and incentive pays targeted toward recruiting and retention should be conducted; 
(5) an analysis of service member use of the Blended Retirement System and its value as a retention incentive; 
(6) an analysis of the data that exists to track service member and family member satisfaction with military compensation and benefits; and 
(7) any recommendations that include legislative or policy changes regarding Department of Defense compensation and benefits.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Alternative Behavioral Health Options

The committee understands the value of alternative behavioral health options when treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Some of these alternative options may include the use of chaplain programs, non-profit post-traumatic growth programs, and eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) programs. The committee wants to ensure these programs remain an important component of military mental behavioral programs.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2023, that addresses the following:

(1) the use of chaplain programs to promote spiritual fitness as part of the holistic approach to reducing service member suicide and improving behavioral healthcare for military service members and their families; 
(2) the use of non-profit post-traumatic growth programs as an alternative approach to traditional models of mental healthcare; and 
(3) an analysis of the Department’s utilization of eye movement desensitization and reprocessing as a behavioral health treatment to include how many EMDR certified providers are in the direct care system, relative frequency of EMDR application compared to more traditional treatment options, and the level of effectiveness EMDR has shown in treating beneficiaries experiencing depression, PTSD, traumatic brain injury, suicidal ideation, and whether EMDR should be covered as a TRICARE benefit.

Civilian Debt Owed for Medical Care Provided at Military Treatment Facilities

The committee understands the value of military/civilian partnerships and the potential they have in facilitating military provider readiness and honing critical skills through access to a wide range of patient populations in varying
locations. However, the clinical benefits provided to individual patients are sometimes outweighed by debt that is accrued during these procedures.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2023, that addresses the following:

1. an analysis of how the civilian partnerships support the military medical readiness required for a future conflict by increasing knowledge, skills, and abilities;
2. a historical analysis of how medical readiness has lagged behind overall readiness as the United States enters a conflict;
3. a breakdown of how civilian debt is processed and a description of what the biggest problems are with the current process, including statutory limitations;
4. the amount of debt that is owed to the Department of Defense by civilians who received trauma care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) broken down by year to include a breakdown of how much of the debt is not collected or needs to be sent to collections;
5. a detailed analysis of the Secretarial Designee (SECDES) program and how it has been utilized to waive expenses and how this program strengthens the military/civilian partnership;
6. opportunities to expand the SECDES program and the potential impact of increasing its utilization for trauma care;
7. any scenarios in which the SECDES program was mandated to be utilized for certain levels of trauma care that provide knowledge, skills, and abilities for military personnel in treating similar wounds and injuries that they would experience in a deployed environment;
8. a description of debt collection practices used by the MTFs;
9. a suggested plan on how to improve civilian care at MTFs and any challenges faced when working with civilian insurance providers;
10. an analysis of how reduced medical manning has limited the Department's ability to engage in civilian partnerships; and
11. a description of any threats that would jeopardize military/civilian partnerships.

Autism Care Demonstration Program Extension

The committee understands that Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects essential human behaviors such as social interaction, the ability to communicate ideas and feelings, imagination and the establishment of relationships with others. The committee also understands the Autism Care Demonstration Program offers a full array of medically necessary services to fulfill the needs of all TRICARE beneficiaries with an ASD diagnosis. The committee notes the Department of Defense extended the Autism Care Demonstration until December 31, 2023, in Federal Register Vol. 82, No. 236 on Monday, December 11, 2017.
However, the committee is concerned about the upcoming expiration of the Autism Care Demonstration and encourages the Secretary of Defense to extend the Autism Care Demonstration for an additional 5 years following December 31, 2023, to ensure the findings and recommendations of the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine study from NDAA 2022 Section 737, are fully evaluated. The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2023, on its consideration of this policy extension that includes:

(1) the timeline considered to extend the Autism Care Demonstration;
(2) the cost of extending the Autism Care Demonstration; and
(3) any other policy consideration the Secretary deems appropriate.

Digitization of Department of Defense Pathology Slides

The Department of Defense Joint Pathology Center (JPC) has begun an effort to digitize millions of pathology slides that, if leveraged to its fullest potential, could advance the diagnosis and treatment of thousands of illnesses that directly impact the health readiness of the Armed Forces and its beneficiaries. The committee is concerned that the process by which the JPC has chosen to digitize may not fully incorporate advances in technology to scale this effort in a timely manner, nor will the current process allow for the swift digitization of these deteriorating slides. In order to move this effort forward, we encourage the Department to apply advancements already developed, such as through the use of an augmented reality microscope developed by the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center and the Defense Innovation Unit. In addition, the committee believes that stronger integration between the JPC and the Department of Defense Chief Data Officer (CDO) needs to occur. The committee directs the CDO, in consultation with the JPC, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current JPC pathology digitization effort, to include whether the current strategy and contract provide for the level of image quality and technical requirements necessary to fully utilize available advanced technology, including the use of artificial intelligence, to develop deep learning algorithms that can be used to help assist in predictive health models and assessments, and whether this capability is required by the military.

The committee further directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than April 1, 2023, on the results of the comprehensive assessment.

Discharges Related to COVID-19

The committee notes that the Department of Defense’s COVID-19 vaccine policy has resulted in service members either involuntarily or voluntarily leaving the Armed Forces. The separation of service members could have a negative impact on readiness at a time when recruitment rates are low and threats from adversaries are high. To better understand the readiness impacts of the Department’s COVID-
19 vaccine policy, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives by September 5, 2022, on the number of discharges due to the mandate. The briefing shall include:

(1) the number of service members that have been involuntarily discharged over the vaccine mandate,
(2) the number of service members that have been granted medical exemptions,
(3) the number of service members that have been granted religious exemptions, and
(4) whether the Department of Defense and the military services are tracking what impact the COVID-19 vaccine policy may be having on recruiting and retention.

Electronic Health Record System Interoperability

The committee is concerned about the findings in the recent Department of Defense Inspector General report “Joint Audit of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs Efforts to Achieve Electronic Health Record System Interoperability.”

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 31, 2022, on the status of addressing the following:

(1) what are the elements to determine the type of healthcare information that constitutes a complete electronic health record;
(2) how will the Departments develop and implement a plan for migrating legacy patient healthcare information needed for a patient’s complete electronic health record once the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization office determines the type of patient healthcare information that constitutes a complete patient electronic health record;
(3) how will the Department of Defense mitigate the impact on providers caused by lapses or errors in the data included;
(4) the development and implementation of a plan for creating interfaces that would allow medical devices to connect and transfer patient healthcare information to Cerner Millennium;
(5) the development and implementation of a plan to modify Cerner Millennium user roles to ensure that users are granted access to only the patient healthcare information necessary to perform their job responsibilities;
(6) any oversight or policy challenges the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization office may have in implementing these recommendations; and
(7) any legislative authorities that may be needed to effectively implement the recommendations.
Evaluation of Suicide Prevention Efforts

The committee notes that a 2021 Government Accountability Office (GAO) review (GAO-21-300) of the Department of Defense’s service member suicide prevention efforts found that “Department of Defense Needs to Fully Assess Its Non-Clinical Suicide Prevention Efforts and Address Any Impediments to Effectiveness.” The Department concurred with the following three recommendations made by GAO to address the findings of the report:

(1) the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should require the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) to collaborate with the military services to develop a process to ensure that individual non-clinical suicide prevention efforts are assessed for effectiveness in the military population;

(2) the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should require DSPO to collaborate with the military services to develop consistent suicide-related definitions to be used Department-wide and require them to be used in the updated Department and military service policies; and

(3) the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should enhance collaboration between DSPO and the Psychological Health Center of Excellence on the production of their annual suicide reports to minimize duplication of efforts.

According to GAO, recommendations 2 and 3 have been implemented by the Department. Recommendation 2 was also addressed by section 726 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81). The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2023, on the Defense Suicide Prevention Office’s progress in implementing all three of these GAO recommendations and section 726 of Public Law 117-81.

Heparin Supply Chain

The committee recognizes the importance of heparin for military service members as an essential blood product used in the field, at other operational locations, and at hospitals. The committee is concerned about the overreliance on pigs from foreign sources. As prolonged field care and other operational settings continue to increase, the Department of Defense must ensure heparin remains available and invest in the development of heparin sourced in the United States and independent of animal sources. The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2023, on opportunities to expand the heparin supply chain for the Department and how investments in research of artificially made heparin can assist military readiness.

Holistic Health and Fitness and Musculoskeletal Injuries

The committee notes the success of the United States Army’s Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) program in developing academic partnerships with
institutions that already have existing injury prevention and human performance programs to engage in research and data collection regarding musculoskeletal injuries to improve health and force readiness. The committee encourages the relevant parties to continue these partnerships in an expanded capacity to include additional areas of physical fitness and injury prevention, mental health and cognitive performance, and nutrition. The committee further encourages research collaborations to develop more refined predictive analytics of force readiness through both virtual simulation programs and field testing. The committee notes that non-combat injuries greatly impact soldier health and readiness and are the leading cause of outpatient medical encounters (more than 2 million annually) among Active Component soldiers. In addition, non-combat musculoskeletal injuries (MSKIs) may account for nearly 60 percent of soldiers' limited duty days and 65 percent of soldiers who cannot deploy for medical reasons and an increased reason for medical separations. MSKIs are also responsible for exorbitant medical costs to the U.S. Government, including service-connected disability compensation. A significant subset of soldiers develop chronic pain or long-term disability after injury; this may increase their risk for chronic disease or secondary health deficits potentially associated with MSKIs.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by March 1, 2023, on the opportunities to develop pilot graduate degree and certificate programs necessary to staff and sustain the H2F performance teams and the feasibility of developing a pilot program for Army personnel to address musculoskeletal injuries.

Mental Health Access Standards

The committee is concerned that service members have not been able to receive a consistent standard of care with specialty behavioral healthcare services in the direct or purchased care system. Further, service members and their families have experienced delays in obtaining necessary behavioral health services. The committee seeks to evaluate service member and beneficiary access standards for behavioral health services.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, focused on service members' and their families’ behavioral health access to care standards for direct and purchased care systems. The report shall also include information on the following:

1. the current process for measuring access to care standards for behavioral health in the direct care system and by managed care support contractors;

2. the process for tracking follow-on appointments after the initial intake visit with a behavioral health provider in the direct care system and by managed care support contractors; and
(3) the criteria for how the access to care standards will be managed in the next TRICARE contract.

National Disaster Medical System Surge Program

The committee understands the importance of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) pilot program authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) and reauthorized by the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283). Moreover, the specifics of the NDMS pilot will address the potential national security ramifications of limited medical surge capacity to care for casualties returning from an overseas wartime contingency. The committee is also waiting on an updated integrated medical operations plan from the Department of Defense and remains concerned about the ability of the Military Health System to treat casualties during major contingency operations or in support of a potential widescale public health support operation.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, that includes the following:

1. the status and overview of any capability-based assessments that were completed or are being conducted on medical surge capacity related to the NDMS pilot;
2. the status of the development of potential services and Joint Staff requirements for the NDMS surge capacity;
3. the status of the Military-Civilian NDMS Interoperability Study which was initiated in December 2020 by the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health, a component of the Uniformed Services University of the Heath Sciences;
4. a plan of action and milestones required in the NDMS pilot to include a funding plan across the Future Years Defense Program that will support the pilot to include the potential development of a full-scale prototype medical surge capability;
5. recommendations related to the establishment of a potential Joint Center for Emergency Medical Training, Readiness, and Coordination in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services;
6. actions taken at each of the five NDMS pilot locations; and
7. a description of planning events, exercises, signed agreements between the Department and civilian medical partnership locations, and any additional capacity provided to the Department through the NDMS partnership.

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Review

The committee commends the Department of Defense for its continued research and development activities related to treating injuries sustained by service members in austere environments. The committee understands the importance of
providing lifesaving technologies to treat combat-related wounds and encourages the Department to continue pursuing the development and fielding of critical technologies supporting wound healing. Given the injury patterns and medical logistical burdens anticipated in future combat operations, the committee is concerned with the potential obsolescence of existing negative pressure wound therapy devices. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, on the Department’s plans for continued use of negative pressure wound therapy in managing combat-related wounds. At a minimum, the report should include the following:

1. a review of existing negative pressure wound therapy devices currently used across the Department including an assessment of their utility in supporting wound treatment in future combat operations;
2. a comprehensive Department of Defense strategy providing joint direction to the Military Health System outlining requirements, key performance parameters, and specifications for negative pressure wound therapy devices for use in future combat casualty care scenarios; and
3. a strategy that incorporates research, development, and procurement management of next-generation negative pressure wound therapy devices.

On-Demand Blood Program

The committee recognizes the importance of on-demand blood technologies in providing military service members access to quality, uncontaminated, and fresh blood supplies anywhere in the world. The committee acknowledges that this program is run by the Uniformed Services University Center for Biotechnology. On-demand blood could help provide blood to service members in conflicts and natural disasters. Blood developed using advanced cellular biomanufacturing techniques has the potential to revolutionize both military and civilian healthcare sectors. The committee also recognizes that in a potential conflict with a near-peer competitor, there will be significant challenges in sustaining the readiness of forward-deployed military forces. This challenge being significantly more difficult in the United States Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility due to the tyranny of distance. On-demand blood will be a critical factor in supporting the Department’s ability to sustain our military in these forward-deployed locations. However, the committee notes that the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing medical research requirements across all Department components may challenge the consistent resourcing of this program.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 31, 2022, on the processes it will employ to coordinate the Defense Health Program and Defense Health Agency research, development, test, and evaluation efforts to ensure that on-demand blood technology research and development is resourced to adequately support requirements of the military departments and combatant
commands. The report should include the anticipated funding for the on-demand blood project over the Future Years Defense Program as well as information on whether this program is identified to be utilized in any upcoming training exercises and the plan for this to become a program of record.

Review of Medical Quality Assurance Process in Operational Environments

The committee understands the importance of ensuring quality healthcare is delivered both at military treatment facilities as well as in operational environments. At the same time, the committee recognizes there may be unique challenges in operational settings that may make the provision of healthcare more difficult.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment that examines the following:

1. whether the Defense Health Agency (DHA) has established an effective and efficient credentialing and privileging process for providers performing medical or dental care in the operational environment;
2. is the DHA adhering to the same standards and timelines for credentialing and privileging regardless of the healthcare setting, i.e. across the continuum of care from the field to the military treatment facility;
3. once a provider is granted privileges, how does the DHA continue to monitor the care provided;
4. is the reporting process for patient safety events that occur in operational settings;
5. are the timelines and reporting requirements being met;
6. how are clinical quality management procedures implemented and monitored in operational settings;
7. what are the unique challenges of providing care in operational environments and how are those being mitigated; and
8. any recommendations for process or policy improvements.

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings and to submit a report with the final results at a deadline agreed to at the time of the briefing.

T-5 TRICARE Contract Awards

The committee understands the importance of the T-5 TRICARE contracts that will be awarded later this year to supplement existing Defense Health Agency (DHA) resources with contracted networks of healthcare providers. Furthermore, the committee believes that contracts of this magnitude deserve transparency and collaboration with congressional oversight.

Therefore, the committee directs the Director of the Defense Health Agency to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the
The committee, upon receipt of the report, shall ensure that the DHA provides a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 3, 2023, on the method, collection, and process for addressing the customer satisfaction of TRICARE beneficiaries. The briefing shall include information on the collection and resolution of:

1. Beneficiary complaints and issues with accessing the behavioral health care system;
2. The process for monitoring and responding to beneficiary complaints that remain unresolved;
3. The process for monitoring and responding to beneficiary complaints related to coverage, access, denials, incorrect provider directory listings, network adequacy, access to specialized care within a reasonable distance from their homes, overdue or consistently inaccurate payments, and other related issues;
4. The process for managing timelines for responding to beneficiary complaints;
5. How customer satisfaction measurements and communications with beneficiaries will be managed as the Defense Health Agency assumes authority, direction, and control of military treatment facilities; and
6. How customer satisfaction measurements and communications with beneficiaries will be managed and monitored in the next TRICARE contract.

TRICARE Dialysis Reimbursement

The committee understands the TRICARE program covers dialysis and hemodialysis and services for end-stage renal disease. The committee notes that the
TRICARE Reimbursement Manual changes the reimbursement rates on a regular basis. However, there are concerns that the reimbursement rates for dialysis services for TRICARE beneficiaries do not match those provided for Veterans Affairs patients in outpatient dialysis facilities.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, on whether dialysis reimbursement rates differ between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, how Department of Defense dialysis reimbursement rates compare to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and leading insurance companies, and whether Department of Defense reimbursement rates differ from those provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

TRICARE Qualifying Life Events

The committee recognizes the unique challenges that service members can face when leaving Active Duty service and seeking to enroll in their new TRICARE health plan. Currently, requests for enrollment in a TRICARE health plan based on a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) may be received up to 90 days before and not later than 90 days after the date of the QLE. While this provides greater flexibility than the civilian sector, the committee believes that every effort should be made to ease the burden experienced by a service member when they are coming off Active Duty and beginning the next phase of their professional life. Increasing the flexibility for a TRICARE beneficiary may ease the overall burden placed on service members and their families.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, that includes the following:

1. specific information regarding the current outreach that is done to service members as they approach and pass a QLE;
2. a plan to improve notifications to service members about their upcoming QLE with suggestions on how to best make changes to their healthcare plan;
3. a strategy to improve the TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries experience as they approach their QLE;
4. an analysis of the impact that increasing the time before and after a QLE that a retiring service member can enroll in a TRICARE health plan would have; and
5. detailed statistics collected through a survey on the number of service members who have faced challenges when transitioning their healthcare needs at the time they are leaving Active Duty service.