



September 17, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The National Military Family Association is the leading nonprofit organization working on behalf of service members and their families. For more than fifty years, we have stood beside those who wear the uniform and advocated for policies and legislation to support service members and their families. We thank the members of the Committees for their efforts to complete the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and urge you to include the following provisions to enhance the quality of life of America's military families.

We appreciate that the Committees recognized ongoing issues with access to care across the Military Health System (MHS). We **strongly support Section 701 of S. 4784**, which would establish a digital system allowing beneficiaries to report access challenges in Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and in the purchased care network. We also **support Section 758 of H.R. 8800**, which would include pregnancy as a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) for TRICARE beneficiaries, allowing them to switch between TRICARE plans without waiting for Open Season. Both of these provisions would help ensure that military families can access the care they need in a timely manner.

Military families deserve a health benefit that offers coverage comparable to what is available under top commercial plans. For that reason, we **strongly support Section 703 of H.R. 8800**, which would direct TRICARE to cover IVF and other forms of assisted reproductive technology for active duty service members and their families. Members of Congress and their staff members already have access coverage for IVF; service members should not have to pay out of pocket for this essential health care. We also **support Section 703 of S. 4784**, which extends coverage of hearing aids to retirees' dependents enrolled in TRICARE Select, and **Section 708 of S. 4784**, which allows coverage of cranial helmets for infants.

We hear often from military families who struggle to find high quality, affordable childcare that meets their needs. We appreciate that the Department has invested in initiatives such as the fee assistance program and the in-home childcare pilot and encourage Congress and the Department to continue to explore innovative approaches to increase the availability of childcare. We **support**

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Sections 572 and 573 of H.R. 8800, which would establish a grant program to allow community childcare providers to care for more infants and toddlers and would include au pairs in the in home childcare pilot. Recognizing that the Department requires accurate data to respond to families' childcare needs, we also **support Section 556 of S. 4784**, which would standardize collection and reporting of data related to child care capacity, workforce readiness and waitlists.

Every military family deserves to live in a safe and healthy home environment. However, we hear from too many military families who are faced with health and safety issues in privatized military housing, including mold, dampness, and pest infestations. We **strongly support Section 2825 of S. 4784**, which establishes guidance on acceptable levels of humidity in privatized housing, requires independent inspections of housing units and sets enforcement mechanisms to ensure contractor compliance. We also support **Section 2823 of S. 4784**, which expands whistleblower protections to families who report problems with privatized housing.

We thank the Committees for their continued support of public school districts serving large numbers of military-connected students. Department of War Impact Aid provides essential funding to school districts serving military families. We especially appreciate that the Committees have included provisions authorizing support for school districts serving military children with special needs.

Thank you for your bipartisan efforts to improve the quality of life of service members and their families. If you have any questions, please contact NMFA Government Relations Director Eileen Huck at ehuck@militaryfamily.org.

Sincerely,



Besa Tafilaj Pinchotti
CEO, National Military Family Association