



National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024

I proudly served in the military, as did generations of my family before me, and I will do everything to support our men and women in uniform. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I work diligently to send a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act to the President's desk for signature every year so our next generation can proudly serve, too. These are some of the priorities I championed in this year's bill:

- A provision to implement a 5.2% pay raise for service members;
- Language that improves cybersecurity coordination with Taiwan;
- Language to prevent AI from being involved in the nuclear launch sequence;
- Bill text identifying alternatives to Arlington National Cemetery to ensure our veterans continue to receive the burial honors they deserve;
- Ensuring our weapon systems supply chains are secure from start to finish;
- Improving our understanding of recruitment efforts for women in STEM fields;
- Providing local communities access to updates on military cleanup efforts of PFAS, a harmful chemical found in a lot of military equipment and supplies; and
- Funding additional research and exploration of Quantum Computing

I want to be clear that I stand in strong support of our service members; however, due to the extreme nature of the following efforts, I voted "no" on the final passage of the Fiscal Year 2024 NDAA:

- An amendment that would prohibit reimbursement of travel expenses when servicewomen or dependents of servicemembers must go out of state to receive reproductive care. The percentage of active-duty service women who have no or severely restricted access to abortion care has increased to 46%;
- An amendment to prohibit federal funds from being used for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, which seek to make our military more accurately resemble the diversity of our great nation;
- An amendment to prohibit servicemembers and Department of Defense employees from displaying unauthorized flags, including Pride flags. I believe this is an attempt to erase and censor the LGBTQ+ community in our Armed Forces and workplaces.
- An amendment to ban books from Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools that depict diversity, such as LGBTQ+ folks, etc. This amendment was riddled with inappropriate and offensive language like 'pornography' to describe good and honorable LGBTQ+ people and their families. This language was used as a shield to hide blatant bigotry.

As always, if you have further questions about the NDAA, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at [Houlahan.house.gov](https://www.houlahan.house.gov).



Abortion Jackson Amendment- Floor Speech

I gave the following speech on the floor in opposition of the amendment to prohibit reimbursement of travel expenses for reproductive care:

"Thank you, [Rep. Sherrill]. I rise today in opposition to this harmful and dangerous amendment.

I also rise saddened and frustrated that we find ourselves here, in this legislative body, deciding whether or not we trust our women in uniform and military families to make health care decisions for themselves.

So let me say loud and clear, as someone who has worn the uniform, and had a child in active duty, unlike many who are opining on this subject, that I. TRUST. WOMEN. to make the best decisions for their health and their family.

Frankly, it's insulting that we have to stand here and ask our colleagues to acknowledge our service women and military family members' bodily autonomy. I grew up in a military family, moving nearly a dozen times before I graduated high school. When the time came, I also raised my right hand in service to our great nation.

Today, that same woman stands here before you perplexed. Why would a woman want to enlist if her fundamental freedoms and those of her family are no longer their own?

The percentage of active-duty service women who have no or severely restricted access to abortion care has increased to 46 percent.

Watch my speech:

This is one major reason why recruitment and retention of servicemembers is at a record low.

51% of the population is not welcome.

We have a duty to protect our service members' freedoms as they continue to fight for ours at home and abroad. This amendment is a threat to the wellbeing of our servicemembers, services, and our great nation, and I urge my colleagues to vote no, and I yield back."

