



Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

September 23, 2026

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

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Ranking Member, Committee on Armed
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The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman, Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Wicker and Rogers, Ranking Members Reed and Smith, and Committee Staff:

On behalf of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), representing more than 350,000 currently serving officers, retirees, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, thank you for your continued leadership on the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The progress on both versions reflects the considerable effort of you and your staff to address the needs of the uniformed services community, and MOAA is grateful for your continued commitment to those who serve and have served.

We write to highlight provisions we believe merit inclusion in the final bill, and to flag several ongoing concerns as the House and Senate work to reconcile the legislation.

The House and Senate versions of the FY2027 NDAA each include meaningful improvements to the TRICARE benefit and the military health system. MOAA urges the Committees to carry the following provisions into the final bill:

- ***Digital system for beneficiary assistance at military medical treatment facilities and through managed care support contractors (Senate Sec. 701)***
This provision would address access to care challenges by directing beneficiaries to assistance and generating data and visibility on patient level access to care problems so systemic issues can be addressed. MOAA recommends that “patient advocate” used in Sec. 701 (a)(3) be modified to “appropriate patient resource” to ensure TRICARE issues are routed to the right point of contact.
- ***MTF Restructuring Oversight (House Secs. 704, 705, 722/Senate Sec. 723)***
MOAA appreciates continued congressional oversight of the service change request to modify the scope of services at certain military treatment facilities (MTFs). We recommend adding a requirement for a designated point person or office to provide assistance to impacted patients who face challenges when transitioning their care from MTFs to the TRICARE network.

- ***Study on the Future of the Military Health System (Senate Sec. 765)***
Substantive changes to TRICARE and the direct care system must not be undertaken without rigorous analysis of potential impacts on beneficiaries and the military medical readiness platform. MOAA appreciates this provision and urges the Committees to add a requirement for engagement with military and veteran service organizations whose perspectives are essential to understanding the beneficiary experience.
- ***Accounts for medical and health care programs of the Department of Defense (House Sec. 724)***
The House bill addresses the Administration proposal to split the Defense Health Program budget into two appropriations, the Combat and Operational Medicine Program and the Private Sector Care Program. While MOAA appreciates the intent to “restore fiscal discipline and protect combat and operational medicine,” we are concerned the new construct could lead to challenges with adequately funding purchased care and diminished access for beneficiaries.

Further, MOAA supports several additional provisions in the House and Senate bills addressing childcare, housing, and retirement equity for military families and retirees. We urge the Committees to retain the following:

- ***Au Pair In-Home Child Care Expansion and Direct-Payment Fix (House Sec. 573/574)***
Expands the in-home child care pilot to include au pairs and establishes a direct-payment mechanism for families participating in the program.
- ***Defense Commissary Agency Supply Chain Transformation Oversight (House Sec. 643)***
Limits implementation of DeCA's Supply Chain Transformation Initiative pending the required commissary report and waiting period.
- ***Privatized Military Housing Nondisclosure Agreement Prohibition (House Sec. 2826)***
Prohibits landlords from asking tenants of privatized military housing to sign nondisclosure agreements.
- ***MOLD Act / Military Housing Health and Safety Standards (Senate Sec. 2825)***
Establishes accountability standards, testing requirements, and remediation timelines for mold and other hazardous conditions in military housing. Provides military housing tenants with the same enforcement protections afforded to tenants in HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, ensuring they receive comparable rights and protections.
- ***USPHS/NOAA Commissioned Corps Retirement Fund Parity (House Sec. 656)***
Expands the Military Retirement Fund to cover USPHS and NOAA Commissioned Corps retirees, protecting their earned pay from disruption during appropriations lapses.
- ***Reserve Component Dental Readiness (House Sec. 701)***
Establishes a no-premium dental plan for junior enlisted (E-1–E-4) members of the Selected Reserve.

Finally, MOAA wishes to acknowledge Congress' ongoing efforts, with other stakeholders, to advance the **Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102/S. 1032)**. Ending the offset that reduces retirement pay for nearly 59,000 combat-injured veterans remains among our highest legislative priorities. While we are disappointed that the Star Act was absent from both the House and Senate versions of the NDAA, we are grateful for the continued engagement of both Committees on alternative avenues to advance this legislation and urge that momentum toward enactment continue in the months ahead.

MOAA also wishes to highlight our concern regarding the Executive Branch's proposal not to extend a comparable pay increase to members of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Corps alongside the increase proposed for the Armed Forces. As two of the nation's eight uniformed services, USPHS and NOAA officers serve alongside their armed forces counterparts, deploy in support of national emergencies, and undertake hazardous assignments, and there is no justification for treating them differently when determining compensation increases. We are pleased that both the House and Senate versions of the FY2027 NDAA raise military base pay by no less than the National Employment Cost Index, and we urge the Committees to ensure that USPHS and NOAA officers are not left behind.

MOAA is grateful for the Committees' ongoing commitment to honoring the sacrifices and supporting the needs of America's uniformed servicemembers, retirees, veterans, their families, and survivors. We urge the Committees to build on this foundation as the FY2027 NDAA moves through the final stages of the legislative process, and we are ready to support your efforts, provide additional information, and serve as a trusted resource throughout.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "B.T. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)
MOAA President and CEO

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services and the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee