

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC
20510

May 29, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Wicker:

As you consider priorities to include in the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Chairman's Mark for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we respectfully request that you retain provisions to provide contraception parity for service members and their dependents.

This year, as in past years, the Committee will consider the inclusion of the bipartisan *Access to Contraception for Service Members and Dependents Act* in the NDAA. This legislation would bring health care provided to service members and their dependents through the TRICARE system in line with civilian health care by eliminating cost-sharing requirements service members and their dependents face when accessing preventive health services. On behalf of the 1.62 million women of reproductive age who depend on the Military Health System, and their dependents, we look forward to working with you to ensure service members are no longer subjected to additional financial burdens when seeking basic health care services.

Service members and their dependents should be able to access contraception and contraceptive services without a co-pay, as their civilian counterparts do. Removing this barrier to contraception access by including the *Access to Contraception for Service Members and Dependents Act* in the FY 2025 NDAA and eliminating cost-sharing requirements for service members and their families remains critical. Members of our Armed Forces make great sacrifices to serve our country and are stationed based on the needs of the nation, not personal choice. We have a solemn responsibility to ensure they are able to access high quality health care and better plan for their families and their personal needs. Without guaranteeing unrestricted access to basic health care services like contraception, the United States' ability to recruit and retain talent in our military will suffer and the health and readiness of our force could decline.

We look forward to working with you to protect and expand access to contraception for service members and their dependents in the FY 2025 NDAA.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Susan M Collins

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator