

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC
20510

January 17, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As you consider priorities to include in the fiscal year (FY) 2025 President's Budget Request, we respectfully request that you include in your request to Congress a legislative proposal outlining your Administration's efforts to reduce barriers to contraception access for service members.

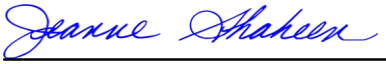
Each year, Congress receives a budget proposal from the Administration to fund government operations. The annual budget reflects the United States' values and your Administration's priorities. That is why we urge you to include a comprehensive proposal to expand access to FDA-approved contraception for service members in the FY 2025 budget request.

Unlike civilians with employer-sponsored and marketplace health plans who are guaranteed access to preventive services like contraception without cost sharing, service members and their families receiving health coverage through the military health care system TRICARE are faced with plans that require insurance co-pays for preventive services, including contraception. The Military Health System serves approximately 1.62 million women of reproductive age, including service members, retirees and their dependents. These women deserve the same no-cost access to contraception as their civilian counterparts. As Congress continues to pursue efforts to bridge this gap in coverage for service members and military families, including by working to pass the *Access to Contraception for Servicemembers and Dependents Act*, we look forward to further cooperation with your Administration to reduce and remove barriers to contraception access for service members.

Access to contraception is critical to family planning for members of our military who face unique circumstances due to their service. Improved access to contraception, including cost-free access, can help service members better plan for their families and futures. In addition, when service members and military families cannot access preventive health care services like contraception, the health and safety of the force are put at risk. As you prepare the FY 2025 President's Budget Request, we urge you to consider how the Department of Defense (DoD) and other relevant agencies may leverage new and existing resources to eliminate barriers to contraception access for service members. We have an obligation to ensure those who serve our nation have unencumbered access to essential health services like contraception and do not face additional cost requirements already eliminated for their civilian counterparts.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the FY 2025 budget prioritizes protecting and expanding access to contraception for service members. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

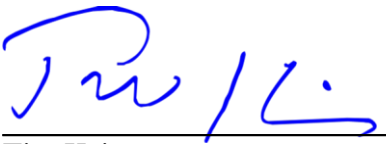
Sincerely,



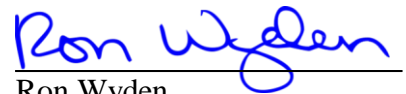
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



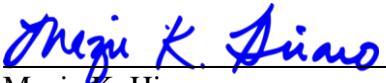
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



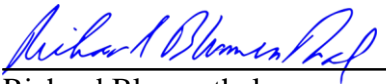
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



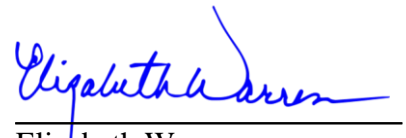
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



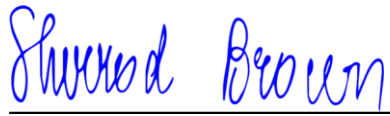
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



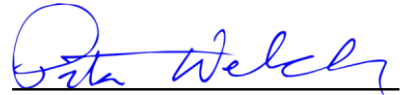
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



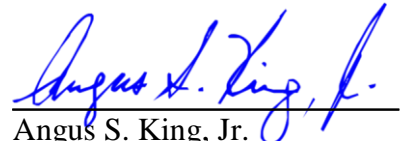
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



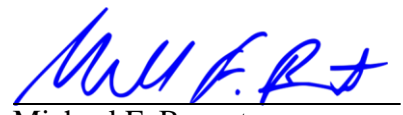
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



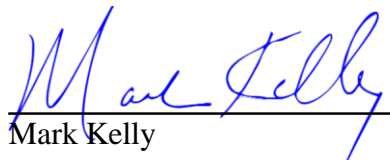
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator




Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



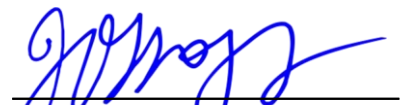
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator

CC: Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary, Department of Defense