Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20510

June 5, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives H-232, The Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers Chairman House Committee on Armed Services 2216 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries House Democratic Leader U.S. House of Representatives H-204, The Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith Ranking Member House Committee on Armed Services 2216 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you all for your leadership on behalf of the American people. We write to you urging the House of Representatives to pass a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that safeguards our national security, improves the lives of service members and their families, is free from poison pill policy riders, and reflects the shared priorities among members of both parties to protect the safety and well-being of the United States.

For over 60 consecutive years, Congress has passed an NDAA in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion that has been signed into law by the President. This amazing feat, regardless of who occupied the White House or which party was in control of Congress, is a testament to the essential work of supporting America's national defense and ensuring our brave service members have the equipment, resources, and benefits necessary to defend our nation.

In the late hours of May 22nd, the House Armed Services Committee favorably reported the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) NDAA out of committee with a near-unanimous vote of 57 - 1. The committee-passed FY25 NDAA reflects months of bipartisan collaboration, highlighted by significant quality of life improvements for service members, including a 19.5% pay increase for junior enlisted service members and a 4.5% pay increase for all other service members, along with over \$1.15 billion for housing improvements to ensure our service members and their families are living in dignified housing worthy of their sacrifice. The committee-passed bill also includes over \$17.5 billion for military construction projects, \$143.3 billion for research, development, testing, and evaluation, and \$16.7 billion for science and technology programs to ensure that the United States stays at the forefront of innovation, and is providing our warfighters with the best equipment possible to accomplish their mission and meet the challenges of tomorrow.

As the FY25 NDAA makes its way to the House floor for full consideration, we urge you to protect the sanctity and bipartisan spirit of this essential must-pass legislation. Promoting a

strong national defense and taking care of our service members are not partisan issues, and the rich history of this legislation accounts for that fact. As Members of the House of Representatives, we have an obligation to protect the safety of our constituents and the United States, and ensuring a bipartisan NDAA that reflects that shared priority is signed into law is essential to achieve that goal. As this year's NDAA advances through the House, we strongly urge you to promote an amendment process that ensures this bill remains bipartisan, free from poison pill policy riders, and continues to prioritize America's national security and invests in quality of life improvements for our brave service members.

Thank you again for your leadership in the House, your service to the American people, and for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Gabe Vasquez⁴ Member of Congress

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Kim Schrier, M.D. Member of Congress

Donald Norcross Member of Congress

O.CLL

Salud Carbajal Member of Congress

Angie Craig Member of Congress

Chris Deluzio Member of Congress

h_V-Marc A. Veasey

Member of Congress

Yadira Caraveo. M.D. Member of Congress

Donald G. Davis Member of Congress

Dua Titos

Dina Titus Member of Congress