

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chair
Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John McCain
Chair
Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Section 312 of the Senate NDAA

Dear Chairman McCain, Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Reed and Ranking Member Smith:

As House and Senate conferees negotiate the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we write to ask you to include Sec. 312 of the Senate-passed bill, which establishes a streamlined process for the Department of Defense (DOD) to transfer funds to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the study and assessment of health implications of water contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Additionally, we urge you to authorize \$10 million for the second year of this study that is currently included in the Senate-passed bill.

As you are aware, the FY18 NDAA included language that authorized DOD to fund a nationwide study on the health effects and cumulative impact of PFAS contamination in drinking water, groundwater, and other relevant exposure pathways found on military installations nationwide from the use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). Though the long-term cumulative effects of PFAS on human health are not yet fully determined, initial analyses have linked PFAS with birth defects, testicular, kidney, and thyroid cancers, and immune system dysfunction. This study will be conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention acting through the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, with support from the Environmental Protection Agency. Furthermore, the provision directed the agencies to complete the study and submit their results to Congress within five years. This bipartisan and bicameral initiative set forth by last year's NDAA strengthens existing Federal and State efforts to provide answers to impacted military members,

veterans, and their families, and improve the safety of our nation's drinking water. Therefore, we respectfully request that the conferees authorize an additional \$10 million for the study, and retain language to streamline the transfer of funding from DOD to HHS.

There is a critical need to understand and address any adverse health effects PFAS water contamination may have on our communities. We appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to working with you to ensure that this provision and the additional authorization of funds are included in the final version of the FY2019 NDAA.

Sincerely,

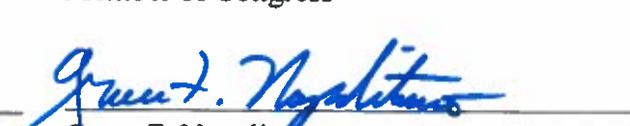

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress


Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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