

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 2, 2019

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Reed:

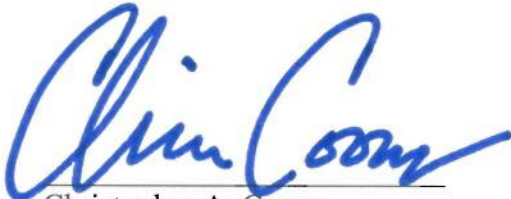
Thank you for your leadership in developing a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020 that supports our service members and strengthens our security. As you negotiate a conference report for the NDAA, we urge you to retain the provision below, which is included in H.R. 2500, the House's Fiscal Year 2020 NDAA.

**Section 627. Consideration of service on active duty to reduce age of eligibility for retired pay for non-regular service.** Section 12731(f)(2)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) or under section 12301(d)” and inserting “under section 12301(d) or 12304b of this title, or under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B).”

Last year, we cosponsored S. 2416, the bipartisan *National Guard and Reserves Benefits Parity Act*, which aimed to close the benefits gap for members of the National Guard and Reserve forces deployed under 12304b authority. We appreciated your inclusion of two of the bill's provisions in the Fiscal Year 2019 NDAA, which ensured that Guardsmen and Reservists can receive a monthly allowance while deployed under 12304b authority and are protected from a reduction in pay if they are federal civilian employees. Section 627 of H.R. 2500 would address the final gap by reducing the age at which Guardsmen and Reservists can receive retirement pay by three months for every 90 days they are deployed on certain preplanned missions overseas.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued work to ensure that Guardsmen and Reservists receive the support they deserve for their service to our country.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



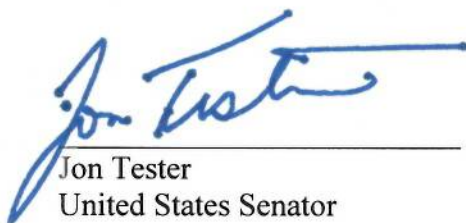
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator