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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

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March 30, 2023

Honorable Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.
Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Cisneros:

We write to thank you and your colleagues for your testimony at the Subcommittee on Personnel on March 15, 2023.¹

As a follow-up to that hearing, we want to remind you of the several requests for information, reports, and responses to previous letters requesting information that Senators have yet to receive and that they raised with you and your colleagues during the hearing.

Senator Budd requested a response from the Department of Defense (the Department) regarding Senator Wicker's letter to Secretary Austin about his reproductive health directives.²

Senator Duckworth requested the report required by section 602 of the fiscal year 2022 *National Defense Authorization Act* on reservist compensation no later than April 12, 2023.³

Senators Kelly and Kaine requested the Department's report on the *Brandon Act*, which was due to the committee on March 1.⁴

¹ Senate Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Personnel, "To Receive Testimony on Military and Civilian Personnel Programs in the Department of Defense in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program," March 15, 2023, <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/to-receive-testimony-on-military-and-civilian-personnel-programs-in-the-department-of-defense-in-review-of-the-defense-authorization-request-for-fiscal-year-2024-and-the-future-years-defense-program>.

² Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, "To Receive Testimony on Military and Civilian Personnel Programs in the Department of Defense in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program," March 15, 2023, pp. 38-39, https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/23-11_03-15-2023.pdf.

³ *Id.*, pp. 41-45; National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, Public Law 117-81.

⁴ Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, "To Receive Testimony on Military and Civilian Personnel Programs in the Department of Defense in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program," March 15, 2023, pp. 57, 60-61,

Senator Warren requested a report or at least a briefing by April 12, 2023 on how the Department plans to implement authorities to waive civilian medical debt incurred because they received emergency treatment at military treatment facilities and to inform patients of their rights to have their debts waived.⁵

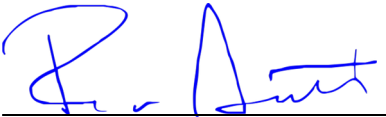
Senator Blumenthal requested a written update on how the Department considers mental health in its recruiting processes⁶ and the results of the Navy's inquiry to better the lives of sailors when their ships are in dry dock following three suicides on the USS *George Washington*.⁷

In all cases the requests issued last week were at least the second if not in some cases the third time we have called upon the Department to comply.

As we both indicated to you all during the hearing, congressional requests for information are not only owed to us due to our constitutional oversight responsibilities, but they are also an important means by which our two branches of government can cooperate for the sake of better policy on behalf of taxpayers.

Please respond to us as soon as possible with a fulfillment of these requests; if you anticipate further delays please tell us this immediately along with what your plan is to fulfill completely what we require.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Personnel



Elizabeth Warren
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Personnel

CC:

https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/23-11_03-15-2023.pdf; Senate Bill Report for Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization, pp. 262-263,

https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy23_ndaa_bill_report.pdf.

⁵ Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, "To Receive Testimony on Military and Civilian Personnel Programs in the Department of Defense in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program," March 15, 2023, p. 71

https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/23-11_03-15-2023.pdf.

⁶ *Id.*, pp. 52-53.

⁷ *Id.*, pp. 53-56.

The Honorable Shawn G. Kelly, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness;
Mr. Thomas A. Constable, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs;
The Honorable Lester Martinez-Lopez, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs;
Ms. Elizabeth B. Foster, Executive Director of the Office of Force Resiliency;
The Honorable Agnes G. Schaefer, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs;
The Honorable Franklin R. Parker, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs;
The Honorable Alex Wagner, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs;
The Honorable Ted Budd, U.S. Senator;
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senator;
The Honorable Mark Kelly, U.S. Senator;
The Honorable Tim Kaine, U.S. Senator;
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator