

Military Housing Readiness Council Act

Senators Elizabeth Warren and Thom Tillis and Representatives Sara Jacobs, Stephanie Bice, Tim Ryan, and Katie Porter

Background:

Press reports and congressional investigations continue to find military families experiencing unsafe conditions in privatized military housing. Congress passed a number of reforms in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act but the Department of Defense has been slow to implement those changes, including creating a public complaint database. The *Military Housing Readiness Council Act* provides a focal point for oversight and accountability to ensure military families receive the safe housing conditions they deserve.

Specifically the Council would do the following:

Provide Enhanced Oversight

- Reviews and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding policies for privatized military housing, including inspection practices, resident surveys, landlord payment of medical bills for residents of housing units that have not maintained minimum standards of habitability, and access to maintenance work order systems.
- Monitors the Department of Defense's compliance with and implementation of statutory improvements to policies for privatized military housing, including the Military Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of Rights and the public military housing complaint database.

Regularly Engage Stakeholders

- Draws membership from the Department of Defense, every military service, officer and enlisted service members, spouses of officers and enlisted members, a representative of the International Code Council, a representative of the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification, and other members to be selected by the chairs and ranking members of the armed services committees.
- Requires the Council to meet no fewer than four times a year.
- Makes additional recommendations to improve collaboration, awareness, and promotion of accurate and timely information about privatized military housing, including accommodations available through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Provides Transparency

- Requires annual reporting to the Secretary and the congressional defense committees on the Council's activities, including analyses of complaints of tenants of housing units, data received on maintenance response time and completion of maintenance requests, assessments of dispute resolution processes, assessments of housing inspections, and any survey results conducted by the Council.