

October 24, 2019

Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Thornberry,

Thank you for leading efforts to address the risks posed by per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. PFAS pollution poses unique risks of reproductive harm, including greater risk of infertility, preeclampsia, and low birth weights. Recent studies show that the fetus is exposed to PFAS throughout gestation.

As Congress finalizes the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2020, we urge you to support the following provisions that limit our exposure to PFAS, including provisions which:

- Quickly phase out military use of PFAS in firefighting foam;
- End the use of PFAS firefighting foams in training exercises;
- End the use of PFAS in military food packaging;
- Require ground and drinking water quality monitoring for PFAS;
- Require reporting of industrial discharges of PFAS into the air and water;
- Ensure safe and effective destruction of military PFAS wastes;
- Provide guidance on the proper destruction and disposal of PFAS wastes;
- Accelerate PFAS cleanups at military facilities;

- Designate PFAS as “hazardous substances” under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.
- Subject PFAS discharges to regulation under the Clean Water Act;
- Set a health-protective drinking water standard that protects vulnerable populations, including children; and
- Provide funding for additional studies, data sharing, and remediation

These provisions will help our families and communities better understand the scope of PFAS contamination through PFAS reporting and monitoring, efforts to reduce or eliminate ongoing sources of PFAS pollution, and efforts to remediate PFAS contamination.

We are grateful for your leadership and urge you to support efforts to address PFAS contamination through the NDAA for FY 2020.

Sincerely,

National Women’s Health Network

National Organization for Women

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)

Endocrine Society

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

National Women's Law Center

Jacobs Institute of Women's Health

Environmental Working Group

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Breast Cancer Action

Physicians for Reproductive Health

National Partnership for Women & Families

Women’s Voices for the Earth

Iowa Breast Cancer Education