

Dear Rules Committee Member:

On behalf of our organizations and our combined memberships, we urge you to make the following amendments in order under the rule governing consideration of H.R. 6395, the William H. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

Making the following amendments in order would allow Members to vote for fiscally conservative values and greater oversight of how the Pentagon spends our federal tax dollars:

#30 – sponsored by Rep. Huffman (D-CA), striking a section of the bill that would effectively force the Pentagon to ship coal across the Atlantic Ocean to fuel a particular military facility in Germany. The Pentagon should be allowed to determine how to meet their energy needs in the most cost-effective and secure manner. Rep. Huffman’s amendment on this issue was made in order last year and was ultimately successful.

#82 – sponsored by Rep. Roy (R-TX) assuring that robust, thorough, and informed congressional leadership is exercised over the National Emergencies Act. This amendment would enhance Congressional oversight when a President declares a national emergency.

#84 – sponsored by Reps. Norman (R-SC) and Schrader (D-OR), tasking the Secretary of Defense to prepare a report to Congress on programs funded by the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account, the manner and extent to which the Secretary plans to shift the funding of each such program in the ensuing fiscal years, and a plan on how said funding will be transitioned in accordance with the President’s Budget Request. The expiration of the Budget Control Act presents an important opportunity to increase budget discipline and reduce the Department’s dependence on off-budget accounts.

#100 – sponsored by Rep. Cohen (D-TN) requiring a DoD report analyzing cost growth of major defense acquisition programs of the last 15 fiscal years.



#118 – sponsored by Rep. Schrader (D-OR) requiring the Pentagon submit a report on the implementation of the Defense Business Board recommendations from 2015.

#134 – sponsored by Reps. Speier (D-CA), Mitchell (R-MI), Porter (D-CA) and Rooney (R-FL) enhancing existing transparency requirements for public availability of Department of Defense reports that are required by law.

#291 – sponsored by Rep. Porter (D-CA), Speier (D-CA), Castro (D-TX) and Phillips (D-MN) increasing transparency of annual Department of Defense legislative requests for the National Defense Authorization Act.

#301 – sponsored by Rep. DeFazio (D-OR), Davidson (R-OH), Cohen (D-TN) and Schakowsky (D-IL) requiring the Department of Defense to pass an audit by Fiscal Year 2025. The Department remains the only major federal agency unable to pass an audit. Any Department of Defense component that fails to do so would have a small portion of its budget returned to the Treasury for deficit reduction purposes.

#324 – sponsored by Rep. Schweikert (R-AZ) and Schrader (D-OR) requiring the Department of Defense budgets to break out enduring costs funded through Overseas Contingency Operations as part of the annual budget presentation. This would codify something the Pentagon voluntarily did in the FY20 and FY21 budget presentations.

#327 – sponsored by Rep. Schweikert (R-AZ) requiring the Office of Management and Budget and Department of Defense to revise criteria for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding requests to ensure that such criteria reflect current OCO activities.

#364 – sponsored by Rep. Jayapal (D-WA) striking Title XXIX, relating to Overseas Contingency Operations Military Construction. Construction of permanent facilities in foreign countries flies in the face of calling these projects “contingencies.”

#375 – sponsored by Rep. Jayapal (D-WA) striking the existing statutory requirement that the Pentagon provide annual Unfunded Priorities lists to Congress. The recent codification of this decades old practice only hardens wasteful spending practices in the largest portion of the discretionary budget. Removing the statutory requirement will not undermine the ability of the military services and components to communicate concerns to the Congress.

#554 – sponsored by Rep. Lieu (D-CA) and Hice (R-GA) requiring the President to notify Congress each time the President places an inspector general on non-duty status. If the President fails, within 210 days, to make a formal nomination for a vacant inspector general position that requires a formal nomination by the President to be filled, the President shall communicate to Congress within 30 days after the end of such period (1) the reasons why the President has not yet made a formal nomination, and (2) a target date for making a formal nomination.

We believe Members of the House should have the opportunity to take votes on these amendments to show their support for fiscally conservative spending values and greater Congressional oversight of how the Pentagon uses our tax revenues. We ask you to make them in order under the rule.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Campaign for Liberty
National Taxpayers Union
Project On Government Oversight
R Street
Taxpayers for Common Sense
Taxpayers Protection Alliance