

Dear Representative:

During consideration of H.R. 8070, the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, there are several amendments that directly affect taxpayer interests. Taxpayers for Common Sense is committed to defending the interests of taxpayers and ensuring appropriate oversight of federal spending. Some amendments will help on both fronts, while others clearly will not.

We recommend a **vote in favor** of the following amendments:

- Amendment #134 by Reps. Norman (R-SC) and Doggett (D-TX) establishes a panel of experts to review contracts for major weapons systems, spare parts, and services to determine whether the Department paid excessive prices and make recommendations to ensure the Department pays fair and reasonable prices in future contracts. Given instances of contractors overcharging the Pentagon for systems, spare parts, and services, empowering a panel to review contracts and make recommendations to ensure taxpayers are getting a fair deal is common sense.
- Amendment #142 by Reps. Biggs (R-AZ), Crane (R-AZ), Lee (D-CA), and Pocan (D-WI) requires the Department of Defense to perform an audit. If it fails to, the discretionary budget authority available for the Department of Defense, the military department, or the Defense Agency shall be reduced by 0.5 percent. The amendment would exempt military personnel, reserve personnel, and National Guard personnel accounts. This measure creates meaningful incentives for the Pentagon to pass an audit. For those departments that fail to pass an audit, it would redirect funds reduced toward deficit reduction.

Unfortunately, several amendments made in order by the Rules Committee run counter to the interests of taxpayers and detract from government accountability.

We recommend a **vote against** the following amendments:

- Amendment #4 by Rep. Boebert (R-CO) prohibits DoD from contracting with entities that are engaged in a boycott of the state of Israel. This amendment could limit the Pentagon's ability to get taxpayers the best return on investment.
- Amendment #22 by Reps. Greene (R-GA) and Burlison (R-MO) states that none of the funds made available by this act may be used for electric vehicles or an electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Limiting the availability of funds for electric vehicles would undermine the Pentagon's efforts to reduce operational fuel consumption, which could have a serious impact on military operations.
- Amendment #24 by Reps. Roy (R-TX), Ogles (R-TN), Nehls (R-TX), Tenney (R-NY), and Crane (R-AZ) states that none of the funds authorized by this Act may be used to implement President Biden's Climate Change Executive Orders (EO 13990, EO 14008, Section 6 of EO 14013, EO 14030, EO 14057, EO 14082, EO 14096). Limiting the implementation of executive orders relating to climate change undermines the administration's ability to address the growing costs of climate change to taxpayers, and the growing national security threats posed by climate change.
- Amendment #107 by Reps. Moore (R-AL) and Ivey (D-MD) requires the Department of Defense to report funding transfers to Members of Congress whose district(s) would be

negatively impacted by a funding transfer or reprogramming action. It also requires the relevant military service to provide a briefing, if requested, to the relevant Member(s) of Congress as to why the transfer was necessary. This amendment would create additional incentives for Pentagon officials to make decisions about funding transfers based on political dynamics rather than national security needs.

Should you have any questions about our recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact our policy analyst Gabe Murphy at gabe@taxpayer.net. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Steve Ellis
President