

From the Desk of Mikie Sherrill

1 message

Rep. Mikie Sherrill <Mikie.Sherrill@mail.house.gov>
To: "Ms. Lisa M. Jordan" <ljordan@drew.edu>

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HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
CHAIR
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH &
TECHNOLOGY

December 1, 2020

Ms. Lisa M. Jordan
36 Loantaka Way Apt B
Madison, NJ 07940-1924

Dear Ms. Jordan:

Thank you for contacting me with your thoughts on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2021. I appreciate hearing your views.

The NDAA authorizes programs and sets policy for the Department of Defense. This critical legislation is considered by Congress annually. I serve on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), which is responsible for drafting a strong and sensible NDAA which ensures the safety of our nation and those who defend it.

Effectively supporting our warfighters requires that Congress knows and understands the needs of our military service branches. This year's NDAA continues to invest in a multiyear sweeping audit of materiel and expenditures to ensure that our military remains an efficient, effective, and future-oriented fighting force. This audit process has already yielded significant savings to taxpayers while ensuring that our Armed Forces are prepared to face the threats of the future. On July 20, 2020, I voted with a bipartisan majority of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 6395, this year's NDAA. H.R. 6395 awaits consideration by the Senate.

As a member of HASC, I am proud to have included provisions from three of my stand-alone bills in the final text of this year's NDAA: The Body Armor for Females Modernization Act, the Joint Long-Term Storage Act, and the National AI Research Task Force Act. These bills require the development of new body armor to protect our female service members in the line of duty, invest in research for long term battery storage (key to many of our green power technologies), and establishes a task force to coordinate research into artificial intelligence at the federal level. These critical priorities invest in the needs and future of our 21st century military, including: the safety of our servicemembers, sustainable and durable energy production and storage, and the existential need to stay ahead of our competitors in AI research and development.

I worked hard to ensure that this year's NDAA includes provisions to support Picatinny Arsenal's critical mission as

America's cutting-edge research and development facility for munitions. As America's munitions center of excellence, Picatinny's mission has never been more important. Developing technologies to keep our troops safe on the battlefields of tomorrow requires an investment in research facilities today. I am proud that my amendment to adjust location-based construction cost assessments to compensate for increased building costs in northern New Jersey was included in the bill, allowing Picatinny greater flexibility for construction and facility improvements. I also offered two amendments included in the final text that invest in developing Extended Range Cannon Artillery platform for long range precision fires, the Army's top modernization priority, and in developing polymer-cased small arms ammunition to replace heavier traditional brass-cased ammunition. Beyond-the-horizon engagement capability and lighter combat loads for our warfighters will ensure that America maintains its competitive edge in the dynamic battlespaces of the future.

Please be assured that I will continue to fight for the needs of our Armed Forces and our service members as the House and Senate resolve differences in the NDAA over the coming weeks. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a sustainable, strong, and forward-looking authorization for fiscal year 2021.

Again, thank you for contacting me about the National Defense Authorization Act. Please continue to stay in touch and provide your important feedback and direction on the work of Congress. You can also stay up to date with my office by signing up for my [newsletter](#) or following me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mikie Sherrill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "S".

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

MS/JG