

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2024

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: Provisions to Address Mold in Military Housing in House-Passed NDAA

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Wicker:

In crafting the FY25 *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)*, a consistent bipartisan priority of Members in both the House and Senate has been to focus on servicemember quality of life. Section 2839C of the House-passed bill doubles down on this commitment to servicemembers by addressing the presence of mold in military housing facilities. We now ask that a final, conferenced mark of the NDAA maintain the existing text of Section 2839C and be expeditiously sent to the President's desk so it can be signed into law.

Section 2839C of the House-passed NDAA directs the Department of Defense to work with federal agencies to study the health effects of mold within military housing facilities and establish standards for habitability for military housing. The amendment would support servicemembers living in military housing – as well as their families – by improving research on toxic mold in military housing on base. The amendment would also create habitability standards for mold on military installations. Lastly, the amendment would instate construction requirements for new housing on military installations so that servicemembers and their families are not becoming sick from preventable causes like toxic mold.

The policy directs a science-driven approach to ensuring safe military housing, and addressing this issue with an interagency strategy ensures that relevant experts collaborate on a preventable issue which has impacted military readiness for far too long. Establishing standards for mold control in military housing also provides an objective benchmark to the private sector and other external parties catering to the military housing market.

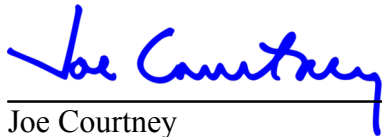
As you are likely well-aware, in 2023, the Army found mold in more than 2,000 of its facilities after a service-wide inspection. That same year, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that servicemembers in all twelve groups that the GAO interviewed considered mold to be a problem in barracks. For example, one servicemember that the GAO interviewed reported having had three visits to the emergency room due to respiratory issues attributed to the presence of mold in their barracks. A copy of this report is attached as an enclosure.

Section 2839C is the product of a bipartisan amendment lead by Representatives Moylan and Courtney in the House, and Senator Blumenthal in the Senate. The amendment was cosponsored by nineteen bipartisan Members of Congress, including Reps Richard Hudson (R-NC), Jen Kiggans (R-VA), Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Gabe Amo (D-RI), John Larson (D-CT), Blake Moore (R-UT), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Seth Magaziner (D-RI), Neal Dunn (R-FL), Morgan McGarvey (D-KY), Ed Case (D-HI), Greg Murphy (R-NC), Jill Tokuda (D-HI), Buddy Carter (R-GA), Jason Crow (D-C)), and Mike Turner (R-OH).

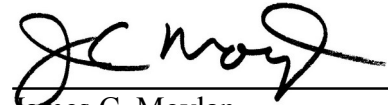
The Amendment passed as part of an en bloc package by voice vote during House NDAA consideration in June. On the Senate side, the language of Section 2839C was been filed by Senator Blumenthal as S.Amdt.3219. It is essential that Committee leadership responding to this bipartisan, bicameral desire to address mold in military housing by ensuring that this language is maintained in any final conferenced FY25 NDAA.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Our staffs would be happy to provide you with any additional background you may need on the amendment or the larger problems of mold in military housing. Please contact Chris.Lukas@mail.house.gov (Del. Moylan staff) or Sean.Falvey@mail.house.gov and Meghan.Ruvinsky@mail.house.gov (Rep. Courtney staff) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress