Congressman
Joe Courtney
Serving Connecticut's Second District

FACT SHEET

Final Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act

Improving Quality of Life for Soldiers and Families

- 14.5% pay raise for junior enlisted service members (E-4 and below) and 4.5% basic pay increase for all other service members
- Requires the evaluation of the current calculation methods for Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) to a realistic allowance for service members' meals.
- Raises the threshold for the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) to 200% of federal poverty guidelines.
- Fully funds childcare fee assistance programs to eliminate fee assistance wait lists for eligible families.
- Ensures pay for childcare staff at DoD childcare centers is competitive with private industry to better recruit and retain DoD childcare personnel
- Extends the Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot which provides employment support to military spouses through a paid fellowship with employers across various industries.
- *Read an extensive list of quality of life improvements **here**.*

Virginia Class Submarine Program:

- $3.972 for one Virginia Class submarine, with incremental funding authority for a second boat and $357 million for additional material and support
- Includes authority for the Navy to provide assistance to the shipyards to increase wages for workers – a critical element to improving recruitment and retention among the metal trades

Columbia Class Submarine Program

- $3.34 billion for the second increment of funding for construction of the USS Wisconsin – the second boat in the Columbia Class program.
- $6.22 billion for Advance Procurement of long-lead time materials, including $2 billion for the construction portion of the submarine industrial base enterprise to increase capacity at Electric Boat and the nationwide industrial base.

Eastern Connecticut Navy Priorities

- Authorizes over $1.63 billion in research and development for future submarine capabilities, including $1961.6 million for future technology in the Columbia Class program, $28073.8 million to develop the next block of Virginia Class submarines, and $298320.8 million for SSN(X), the planned future follow-on to the Virginia Class program. These efforts are critical to sustaining the health of the design and engineering workforce at Electric Boat.
- $2.5 million above the FY25 budget request, a Courtney-priority to support Navy partnerships with academic institutions conducting research on undersea capabilities, such as the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology at the University of Connecticut.

Connecticut Aerospace Priorities

- $5 million increase above the budget request for continued development of uncrewed aerial systems to enhance the DOD's logistics and mobility enterprise, like those underway at Kaman Aerospace in Bloomfield, CT.
- $709 million for 24 UH-60M Blackhawks, made at Sikorsky.
- $25 million for Blackhawk Block II Modernization, which will help sustain the engineering and design workforce at Sikorsky for work on the next fleet of Blackhawk helicopters.
- $2.07 billion for 20 CH-53Ks, built at Sikorsky.
- A Courtney-authored provision to provide multiyear procurement authority for the CH-53K program to provide demand signal and industrial base stability for the workforce at Sikorsky.
- $527 million for F135 Engine Core Upgrade development across Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, a key engineering program for the F-35 engine underway at Pratt & Whitney.

Supporting Eastern Connecticut's Students and Schools

- $70 million increase for the Department of Defense's Impact Aid Program
    - $50 million in supplemental DOD Impact Aid
    - $20 million for children with disabilities
- Direct the Department of Education (ED) and Department of Defense (DOD) to share information in order to determine the eligibility of servicemembers to receive educational benefits such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Seapower and Projection Forces Provisions

Shipbuilding: The FY25 NDAA authorizes procurement of 7 battle force ships:

- 2nd increment of funding for construction of the USS Wisconsin, the second boat in the Columbia Class program
- 1 Virginia Class submarine with incremental authority for a second
- 3 DDG 51 destroyers
- 1 LPD Flight II
- 1 Medium Landing Ship

Sealift

- Builds on Rep. Courtney's provision in the FY23 NDAA to authorize a 10-ship new build sealift program for DOD requirements.
- In FY24, Rep. Courtney secured $12 million for the Maritime Administration to carry out the design of vessels for this program.
- The FY25 NDAA requires the Navy to support the Department of Transportation and Maritime Administration entering into a contract using the vessel construction manager contracting method for construction to begin in FY25.

Maritime Security Program

- Reauthorizes the program through 2040 and incrementally increases the stipend, providing industry incentives to join the program for availability of military useful merchant ships in support of DOD sealift requirements.

Tanker Security Program

- Extends the program's authorization through 2040, which Rep. Courtney established in the FY21 NDAA, to provide demand signal for industry to competitively operate for the transport of liquid fuel products for the DOD.