

## **CONNECTICUT PRIORITIES & MORE WINS IN THE FINAL FY26 NDAA**

The final Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization includes Connecticut priorities led by Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02) as Ranking Member of the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, and more wins for national security and Congressional oversight.

### **CONNECTICUT PRIORITIES**

The bill includes the following measures led and championed by Rep. Courtney:

#### **Columbia-class Submarines**

- Includes massive new contracting authority language for up to 5 submarines that weigh 21,000 tons which will include third-in-class USS Groton, or SSBN 828. This workload for Connecticut shipbuilders will extend into the late 2030s.
- Includes incremental funding authority for this new contract, which will help to avoid the risk of stop-work orders.
- Includes additional \$700 million authorization for Columbia advance procurement and maintained the needed authorization level for Columbia procurement from the President's budget request.

#### **Virginia-class Submarines**

- Includes additional \$1.9 billion authorization plus-up for Virginia procurement. This includes the \$1 billion Virginia-class procurement

plus-up that Courtney secured in the House Armed Services markup of the FY26 NDAA.

- Includes additional \$615 million authorization for Virginia “advance procurement.” This ensures continued funding for the shipyard worker wage improvement passed by Congress in December 2024 and implemented in new labor contract agreements with General Dynamics–Electric Boat in May 2025.
- Includes advanced procurement authorities for more Virginia–class components, which will help reduce costs and improve program schedule.

### **Blackhawks & CH-53Ks (made by Sikorsky in Stratford, CT)**

- Includes multi-year procurement authority for Blackhawks in fiscal year 2027, which will lower per-unit cost for the Army and provide the defense industrial base with the stability to invest in supply chains and workforce at Sikorsky and their suppliers.
- Includes additional \$100 million authorization for Blackhawk modernization and includes full authorization for Blackhawk procurement for fiscal year 2026, which will keep Blackhawk ready for the next 40 years of service life.
- Includes additional \$135 million authorization for CH-53K procurement, providing for an additional helicopter for FY26, the U.S.’ most powerful heavy-lift helicopter.

### **Infrastructure Improvements at Sub Base New London**

- Includes \$44 million authorization for the Submarine Pier 8 replacement, which will accommodate the future, longer Block V Virginia–class submarines.
- Includes \$30 million authorization for a new Weapons Magazine and Ordnance Facility to allow the Sub Base to accommodate future Navy weapons.

### **U.S. Coast Guard Academy & National Coast Guard Museum**

- Includes Safe-to-Report policy which will ensure protections for Coast Guard personnel and Coast Guard Academy cadets from punishment for minor offenses when reporting an incident of sexual assault.
- Authorizes the Coast Guard to use existing funds for final completion of the National Coast Guard Museum.

### **More Connecticut Priorities**

- Includes an additional \$50 million authorization for Department of Defense Impact Aid, a program which provides needed support to school districts with a proportion of military families, including Groton Public Schools and Ledyard Public Schools.
- Includes an additional \$20 million authorization for Impact Aid for Children with Disabilities.
- Includes an additional \$2.5 million authorization for academic partnerships for undersea vessels, continuing the work of UConn's National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology.
- Includes improvements to the APEX Accelerator program, including significantly increasing the funding cap for Native American Accelerators from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, enabling Accelerators to use other federal funds when serving that agency or department, and expanding program purposes in statute.

### **MORE WINS IN THE FY2026 NDAA**

The bill includes the following measures supported by Rep. Courtney:

#### **Military Servicemembers, Families, and Department of Defense Personnel**

- Authorizes a 3.8% pay raise for all military personnel.
- Protects the DoD civilian workforce by strengthening protections against arbitrary reductions in force.

#### **Supporting European Allies**

- Authorizes \$400 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative in FY26 and \$400 million FY27. Also ensures funding for all U.S. European Command security cooperation activities.
- Restricts the ability to recognize Russian sovereignty over the internationally recognized Ukrainian territory.
- Places restrictions on the ability to reduce the number of U.S. military personnel in Europe or the Republic of Korea and requires advanced notice prior to making significant changes to combatant command responsibilities or force structures.

### **Supporting AUKUS**

- Reforms export controls for the U.S., U.K., and Australia (AUKUS Authorized Users) to allow defense articles to re-export, retransfer, or temporarily import between the three Governments. Also eliminates burdensome congressional notifications for U.S. agreements involving manufacturing of certain munitions in U.K. and Australia.

### **Long-Overdue Checks and Balances by Congress**

- Repeals the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force against Iraq.
- Fences off funding until the Secretary of Defense provides unredacted videos of all military strikes that have occurred in Latin America as well as copies of all classified Execute Orders issued by the Department of Defense.
- Requires notification and rationale for dismissal of generals and flag officers, which includes Navy servicemembers.
- Requires military personnel to display the name of the military service they are affiliated with when supporting civilian law enforcement activities in U.S. cities and includes reporting requirements to help with congressional oversight on the use of military aircraft for immigration operations, DOD support to request for assistance from DHS, and on immigrants detained on military installations.