

CONNECTICUT DEFENSE PRIORITIES IN THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026 (H.R. 7148)

The final Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations bill (passed by the House as part of H.R. 7148) includes Connecticut defense priorities championed by Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02) as Ranking Member of the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee.

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

Virginia-class Submarines

- A \$1.9 billion funding plus-up for the Virginia-class program to ensure procurement of two submarines in fiscal year 2026.
 - This avoids a massive funding gap created by the President's budget request and the budget office disregarding the Navy's needs. The Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee first flagged this shortfall in June 2025. This plus-up mirrors the \$1.9 billion authorization in the FY26 NDAA. The authorization includes the \$1.0 billion Virginia-class procurement plus-up that Courtney secured in the House Armed Services Committee markup of the FY26 NDAA.

Columbia-class Submarines

- \$3.92 billion for Columbia-class procurement, which fully funds the program for fiscal year 2026.
- \$5.35 billion for Columbia-class advanced procurement (a \$285 million increase over the President's budget request).
- Reaffirms the incremental funding of the third Columbia-class submarine, the USS Groton (SSN 828), as authorized in the FY26 NDAA. This avoids the risk of stop-work orders.

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

- \$913 million for UH-60M Blackhawk multi-year procurement (a \$167 million increase over the President's budget request)
 - In the FY26 NDAA, Courtney secured 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.
- \$123 million for Blackhawk modernization (a \$100 million increase over the President's budget request), which will keep Blackhawk ready for the next 40 years of service life.
- \$1.92 billion for CH-53K (a \$213 million increase over the President's budget request), providing up to 2 additional helicopters for FY26, and delivering the U.S.' most powerful heavy-lift helicopter.
- Includes language prohibiting the cancellation of the UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft program in fiscal year 2026, which will avoid the risk of any premature shutdown of Blackhawk production lines.

Aerospace Propulsion

- \$280 million for F-135 engine spare parts and \$160 million for F-35 spare parts. F-135 engines are made by Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, CT.
- \$1.7 billion in F-35 modernization, including \$282 million set aside for propulsion research and development.

- Includes language supporting the continued competition for the Next Generation Adaptive Propulsion (NGAP) program for future fighter jets.

More Connecticut Priorities

- \$50 million in additional funding in funding 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.
- \$20 million in additional funding for Impact Aid for Children with Disabilities.
- \$20 million in additional funding for partnerships for submarine and undersea vehicle programs, continuing the work of UConn's National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology.
- \$4 million in research and development funding for outfitting secure wireless connections on submarines to enhance the efficiency of the crews. This work mostly occurs at EB Progeny Systems in Groton, CT.
- Additional \$38 million in additional funding for the APEX Accelerator program, continuing efforts to help CT businesses contract with the Government.

MORE MEASURES SUPPORTED BY REP. COURTNEY:

Military Servicemembers, Families, and Department of Defense Personnel

- A 3.8% pay raise for all military personnel, for a total of \$193.3 billion.

Supporting International Allies and Partners

- \$400 million in funding in the Security Cooperation account available for Ukraine.

- \$200 million in funding for the Baltic Security Initiative, bolstering the readiness of our Baltic Allies Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- \$1.0 billion for the Taiwan Security Cooperation Initiative.
- \$343 million to support regional partners in countering ISIS.

Supporting AUKUS

- \$40 million in funding for research and development under Pillar 2, continuing trilateral cooperation on undersea, quantum, and other technologies.
- The bill recognizes the importance of AUKUS, noting that the partnership creates a more lethal force and strengthens the domestic defense industrial base.