

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United State House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United State House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

We write to urge your strong opposition to a provision in the FY25 National Defense Authorization Act (Senate Amendment to H.R. 5009) that seeks to deny medical care to transgender family members of those serving in our nation's military. This provision creates a dangerous precedent by forcing medical providers serving military families to discriminate against patients simply because they are transgender.

Preventing service members from obtaining medically necessary care for their families threatens the health, mental health, and well-being of military families. Service members make enormous sacrifices to serve and defend our country, and in return we have a shared obligation to ensure they and their families have access to the medical care they need.

This care is supported by every major American medical organization. Health care providers, not Congress, are best positioned to work with patients and their families to address their medical and mental health care needs. The provision in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5009 is an unnecessary and harmful intrusion into the provider-patient relationship, and it serves no purpose other than to target service members whose families rely on life-saving medical care.

We call on you to oppose this discriminatory provision and restore our nation's commitment to fairness in health care for service members and their families. These families deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association Services
Association of American Medical Colleges
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
Pediatric Endocrine Society

Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research

