

My amendment codifies this presumption to ensure that we are protecting the rights of our troops and adds a layer of accountability, requiring the Department to tell a servicemember why their application was rejected.

My amendment is straightforward: It preserves a base commander's ability to protect their installation and to deny the right to conceal carry. It restores the universal applicability of constitutional rights, especially to those men and women who serve us every day, and it increases transparency in those decisions.

Madam Chair, I thank Chairman ROGERS for his support and his assistance in this effort. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, let's be clear: Our servicemembers already have the ability to bring personally owned firearms into military installations. They simply have to meet commonsense Department of Defense safety requirements, be legally eligible, properly trained, meet age requirements, demonstrate responsible conduct, and safely transport and store their firearms.

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Those aren't burdens. They are basic safeguards.

This amendment turns that standard on its head. Instead of commanders deciding who can safely carry a personal firearm on base, it creates a presumption that requests should be approved unless commanders can justify saying no. It weakens commander authority and lowers the safety standards that have protected our installations for years.

When we lower standards around firearms, we increase risk. We have lived through the consequences. Some of the deadliest mass shootings on military installations were carried out with personally owned firearms. At the same time, our military continues to face a heartbreaking suicide rate, with firearms accounting for the vast majority of Active-Duty suicide deaths.

We should be strengthening safe storage, responsible ownership, and commander discretion, not making it easier for firearms to be carried and stored on our bases with fewer safeguards.

Military installations are not public parks. They are secure workplaces. They are homes for military families and critically important national security assets. Commanders must have the authority to protect the people entrusted to them.

If we expect discipline, readiness, and accountability from our troops, we should expect the same when it comes to firearms on our installations.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this reckless amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANK. Madam Chair, I appreciate my colleague's concern. It is always interesting that there are some who put all of these stipulations on the rights of firearm owners, on the Second Amendment.

I always wondered to myself what would happen if we put those same restrictions on the First Amendment, if they had to get approval from the base commander before they exercise their First Amendment right, if they had to get approval from the base commander before they went to church and their First Amendment right to worship God as they see fit. I wonder how some of my colleagues might think of that, Madam Chair.

This is a commonsense approach. These are the men and women who use firearms every single day to defend our rights, our First Amendment rights, our Second Amendment rights, and all of our constitutional rights guaranteed to us in the Bill of Rights. That is who we are talking about.

If we can't trust them to be responsible gun owners, then who in the world can we trust?

Madam Chair, my colleague talked about that a military installation is a place where there are homes. Does a soldier have a right to defend their family in their own home?

These would seem to me to be basic rights, and I guarantee that to the Founders of our Constitution, this is an absolute basic right.

Could you imagine our Founders looking at us today deciding whether the men and women of the militia, the people who carry and use firearms every day to defend us, whether or not they are capable, whether or not government can grant them the right to carry a firearm and defend themselves?

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS).

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. The FY16 NDAA already granted the Department the authority to establish a process for servicemembers to carry personal firearms on base.

It is simple. The chain of command has the authority to grant these requests. However, Secretary Hegseth's MOU from April, which this amendment codifies, has a presumption of approval that weakens an installation commander's authority and would require them to essentially prove a negative to deny a request.

The process that we established was dependent on a servicemember's need for personal or force protection. Yet, this amendment strips that requirement or any justification for that matter in order to carry a personal firearm on base.

The Secretary's logic is that adding more firearms at military installations would make it safer. No law enforcement agency would ever suggest that more people carrying personal weapons

makes any place safer. While our military personnel are trained to use firearms, they are not all trained to be law enforcement, and no one should ever take the law into their own hands.

There is nothing in this amendment that would restrict locations for personal firearms. Does that mean junior enlisted servicemembers who account for roughly half of all military suicides are now permitted to carry in the barracks under this amendment?

Are personnel now allowed to walk around the commissaries, schools, the exchange, or libraries with a firearm? More guns does not make us more safe.

Expanding access to personal firearms on base increases the risk of servicemember suicide. Independent research, including reviews commissioned by the Department of Defense itself, has found that greater access to firearms is associated with increased suicide risks among servicemembers.

There is a clear lack of consideration by Republicans for servicemembers' and their families' well-being and safety here.

Madam Chair, I urge all my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, this amendment is a dangerous solution in search of a problem. Not only is it absolutely unnecessary, but it constrains base commanders in their duty to keep facilities, servicemembers, and families safe.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this reckless amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally to receive a message.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1041. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to address the infringement of patents that claim biological products, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which

the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to honor the late Senator Lindsey O. Graham.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 118-144, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to be members of the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution:

Tevi Troy of Maryland.

Dara Horn of New Jersey.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. KING-HINDS). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in part A of House Report 119-755.

Ms. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5. CODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 14183.

Executive Order 14183 (90 Fed Reg. 8757; relating to Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness) shall have the force and effect of law.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1438, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of America's brave men and women in uniform to ensure America's warriors have the tools and environment they need to defend our Nation.

Shortly after taking his second oath of office, President Trump acted to protect our servicemembers. He signed an executive order prioritizing military excellence and readiness to prevent radical transgenders from serving in the United States military.

My amendment codifies this executive order, ensuring the integrity of America's great Armed Forces is not jeopardized.

Gender dysphoria was considered a mental disorder by psychologists for decades until 2019. Even the leftist World Health Organization listed it as a mental illness in the international classification of diseases.

According to the Williams Institute, 81 percent of transgender adults have seriously contemplated suicide. That is 15 times higher than the general population. Forty-two percent of

transgender adults have attempted suicide, and 56 percent have harmed themselves. People with gender dysphoria are a danger to themselves and others.

The United States military possesses the most powerful weapons known to man. We are the largest Air Force and Navy in the world, with nuclear weapons, artillery, and a host of other weapons with immense destructive capacity.

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Every day we trust our brave men and women in uniform to protect us and to use these weapons that we possess responsibly for the defense of America.

We the people have placed our faith and trust in our Armed Forces, and they have placed their faith in this Congress to make responsible policy.

The United States of America cannot allow mentally ill individuals to possess and operate these weapons, and this Congress cannot allow transgenders to jeopardize the safety and readiness of our Armed Forces.

My amendment protects America's servicemembers, ensures force readiness, and prevents dangerous individuals from accessing destructive weapons. No other severely mentally ill person would ever be allowed in the Armed Forces, and this Congress should not make any exception for gender dysphoria. The risk to the American people and our Armed Forces is simply too great.

Secretary Hegseth has often highlighted the need to restore the warrior ethos in the Department of War. After the Armed Forces endured 4 years of waste, fraud, and abuse under the Biden administration, President Trump and Secretary Hegseth have restored the United States military to greatness.

Keeping weapons out of the hands of dangerous, mentally ill individuals is a critical step in maintaining this warrior ethos.

I am proud to support the President in ensuring the United States Armed Forces remains the finest military in the world.

My amendment to codify the President's executive order ensures servicemembers are of sound mind, body, and discipline, and no future administration can rescind these protections for America's heroes.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, this amendment would codify President Trump's executive order banning transgender Americans from serving in the United States military.

Since that order came down, the military branches have forced out Americans who have served their country bravely and honorably, leaving en-

tire professional careers behind and gaps in the units and chains of command they once held together.

This amendment would codify that exclusion into law. There are no grounds to exclude trans people from the military except for hatred, prejudice, and bigotry. There is no evidence that having transgender troops negatively impacts military readiness.

Our military is strongest when every qualified servicemember is able to serve. Who are we as a country when strong, qualified, patriotic candidates who want to serve their country are turned away simply because of ignorant legislating?

The American people want Congress to support our servicemembers, not waste time rooting out the ones they want to use as political pawns.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, since a member of this committee did not reserve the time, I reserve my right to close at this time.

I would just say if gender dysphoria isn't a mental illness, then why do 42 percent of those who identify as transgender attempt suicide?

We don't hand nuclear weapons and fighter jets to people in that kind of crisis. We shouldn't start now. We should be helping these people in real ways rather than handing them weapons of destruction.

This is a very serious issue that we should address right now. No other severe mental disorder gets a waiver into the United States military. Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, they are all disqualifying. Gender dysphoria is no different, except politicians changed the label.

My amendment treats it exactly the same. Madam Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. I now recognize the gentleman—

Ms. BOEBERT. No. I closed.

The Acting Chair. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. BOEBERT. That was not a member who claimed time from this committee. He was not able to claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. BOEBERT. And he doesn't get any time to close.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is now recognized.

Ms. BOEBERT. He has no time remaining, Madam Chair.

He is not a member of the committee, and he claimed time in opposition. You didn't, sir.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman will suspend. The gentlewoman has used up all of her time.

Ms. BOEBERT. My time, my right to close, and I closed.

The ACTING CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 4 minutes remaining.