

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 2018

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCain, Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Reed and Ranking Member Smith:

As House and Senate conferees negotiate the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we write to you to include Sec. 312 of the Senate-passed bill, which establishes a streamlined process for the Department of Defense (DOD) to transfer funds to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the study and assessment of health implications of water contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Additionally, we urge you to authorize \$10 million for the second year of this study that is currently included in the Senate-passed bill.

As you are aware, the FY18 NDAA included language that authorized DOD to fund a nationwide study on the health effects, and cumulative impact of PFAS contamination in drinking water, groundwater and other relevant exposure pathways found on military installations nationwide from the use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). This study will be conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention acting through the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry with support from the Environmental Protection Agency. Furthermore, the provision directed the agencies to complete the study and submit their results to Congress within five years. This bipartisan and bicameral initiative set forth by last year's NDAA strengthens existing Federal and state efforts to provide answers to impacted citizens and improve the safety of our nation's drinking water. Therefore, we respectfully request that the conferees authorize an additional \$10 million for the study and retain language to streamline the transfer of funding from DOD to HHS.

There is a critical need to understand and address any potential adverse health effects PFAS water contamination may have on our communities. We appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to working with you to ensure this provision and the additional authorization of funds are included in the final version of the FY2019 NDAA.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



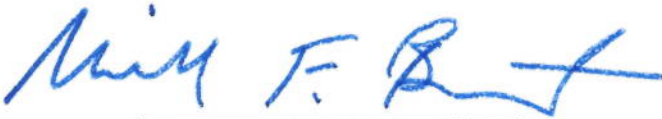
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator




Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator