

SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) Response to DACOWITS' Request for Information

DACOWITS RFI 10: The Committee is concerned with the ability of National Guard and Reserve servicewomen to receive creditable military service pay and retirement points during the time they are pregnant and/or on maternity leave. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, Section 521, increased parental leave benefits for active duty members to 12 weeks of total leave in the case of the birth of a child. However, under the current law, National Guard and Reserve servicewomen lose credit for their military service and points towards retirement while they are pregnant and/or on maternity leave and unable to attend unit training (e.g., drill weekend). Anecdotal evidence suggests lack of legislation in this regard impacts women's affiliation with and retention of women in the National Guard and Reserves.

The Committee requests the Department of Defense (DoD) position on proposed legislation to support National Guard and Reserve servicewomen receiving creditable military service pay and retirement points when impacted by pregnancy or the birth of a child. For example, the proposed Mothers of Military Service (MOMS) Leave Act.

DoD Response: The Department has not taken a formal position on this legislation. If Congress requests our official position via letter and our formal response must be approved by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it's sent back to Congress.