



Representative Trent Kelly

Proudly Serving Mississippi's First District

Rebuilding the Armed Forces: This mark includes increases in end-strength for the Army, Navy, and for the first time the Space Force; and there is also a requirement for a detailed report on the force structure plan of the Space Force. This proposal also includes an extension of special pay and bonuses for service members in high demand fields, and supports a military basic pay raise by 3%

Hazardous Duty Pay: This mark includes an amendment to increase the hazardous duty pay to \$275 a month for our Armed Forces members serving in remote and austere environments across the world.

Military Family Support: This mark authorizes \$40 million to provide assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students and, another \$10 million to assist students with severe disabilities. The mark also includes a study that would require the Department of Defense to examine the feasibility of authorizing a spouse to contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan account of their service member spouse. If feasible, this may prove to be very helpful to many military families. The mark requires the Department of Defense to redefine military family readiness and military family resiliency as well as implement a strategy to better communicate with military families; and develop a bi-annual survey that measures the effectiveness of the Department's programs in areas like education, spousal employment, and military healthcare.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP): This mark requires the standardization of the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) to include the process for identifying and enrolling participants, enhances the respite care benefit, establishes outcome measures, and improves the screening process for the evaluation of duty stations that can support EFMP enrollees.

Response to COVID-19: This mark includes several provisions addressing the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped virtually all parts of the military and society. It requires the Department to ensure that the Armed Forces have the diagnostic equipment, testing capabilities, and personal protective equipment necessary to protect service members from the threat of infectious diseases and to treat members who contract infectious diseases. It also requires the National Security Strategy to include the provision of drugs, biologics, vaccines, and other critical medical equipment to ensure combat readiness and the safeguarding of the health of the Armed Forces.

Verification Alignment and Service-disabled Business Adjustment: This mark transfers responsibility for verifying that a small business concern is owned and controlled by a veteran or service-disabled veteran, for the purposes of eligibility for certain procurement programs, from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Small Business Administration.

Specifically, the bill transfers maintenance of the database of veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to the SBA. For the purposes of procurement programs for small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, the SBA must certify the status of such businesses, require their periodic recertification, and penalize any small business that misrepresents its status. Accordingly, the bill also abolishes the Center for Verification and Evaluation of the Department of Veterans Affairs and transfers all of its functions to the SBA.

Recognizing the Sacrifice of Servicemembers Interred at Arlington National Cemetery: This amendment places a prohibition on charging families for acronyms KIA, MIA, or POW on the headstones of individuals laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. While this only applies to those at Arlington National Cemetery, I look forward to working with the Veterans Affairs Committee to extend this benefit to all service-related cemeteries.