

loophole for foreign hedge funds, the intended targets of the recent changes.

As I work with stakeholders and colleagues to finalize this legislation, I understand that the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service are currently working on finalizing regulations with respect to the PFIC insurance business exception. I am particularly encouraged that the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service specifically requested comments with respect to the application of those regulations to financial guaranty insurance. I would encourage the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service to carefully consider the comments received pursuant to their request in light of the pending introduction and consideration of my legislation to address as much as possible any unintended consequences with respect to financial guarantors.

CELEBRATING THE PASSAGE OF
THE FY2020 NDAA

HON. KENDRA S. HORN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I applaud the House for passing the FY20 National Defense Authorization Act in an overwhelming bipartisan vote. This bill includes important modernizations and protections for our service members, military families, and our nation's Armed Forces. It was an honor to represent Oklahomans as one of four freshmen on the House Armed Services Committee included at the bill's conference.

This legislation includes a Tenants Bill of Rights to address unsafe housing conditions on military bases and other critical protections for service members in privatized base housing. I led the effort in the House for these protections after hearing about military housing problems at Tinker Air Force Base during one of my town halls. The Tenants Bill of Rights will protect our military families from predatory contracts and provide increased oversight of privatized base housing.

I am proud this bill included legislation I introduced to address a severe shortage of pilots in both our Air Force and in the aviation industry. My provision would assist JROTC members in getting their pilot's certificate. In Oklahoma, Air Force JROTC provides specialized aeronautics and space education. With about 1,000 students participating in Air Force JROTC units alone, these programs provide an important and unique service to strengthen our aerospace workforce of the future.

This need will only become more pronounced with the establishment of the United States Space Corps within the Department of the Air Force. As the Chair of the Space Subcommittee of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I have heard from and worked with experts who recognize the imminent threats that our existing space infrastructure face. Satellites that offer geolocation services, weather data, and communications are all necessary elements to our modern day infrastructure. Our new Space Corps will protect these interests from natural catastrophes while deterring aggression from those intent on harming U.S. national security.

This bill also came with vital reforms to better our servicemembers daily lives.

The FY20 NDAA includes a 3.1% pay increase for all military personnel. Members of our uniformed services have not received a pay raise in far too long. As a result, our servicemember have experienced financial difficulty and have struggled to put food on the table for their family members even while they serve their country. I am proud to represent the servicemembers of my district and thankful to have a part in ensuring they are well compensated.

This bill provides 12 weeks of parental leave for all federal employees. A landmark policy for the U.S. government, we passed an NDAA that ensures all families can have the support they need in the crucial first month of starting or expanding their families. The US is the only industrialized nation without a national paid family leave policy, and this is a step in the right direction to ensure all families have the opportunity to work and take care of their families.

It preserves funding for critical education needs. We passed a \$40 million authorization to support the schools that educate our servicemembers' children. The Impact Aid program has maintained schools in areas with small to non-existent tax bases such as Indian reservations and military bases. This funding increase ensures that every student, no matter their zip code may have equal access to an education.

The passage of the FY20 NDAA also came with crucial reforms to streamline internal processes and ensure transparency in our Defense Department.

As the sponsor of Section 1011, I was concerned that requiring audit firms to disclose confidential disciplinary proceedings could ultimately lead to those proceedings becoming public, contrary to the express intent of Congress. I sponsored an amendment that remedies that concern. The best way to avoid such an outcome is for the DoD to permit contracting accounting firms to provide relevant proceeding information to the Department. This preserves the confidentiality requirements of Sarbanes-Oxley while remaining consistent with the confidentiality provision included in the conference report.

In addition, I wish to make the observation that with respect to Section 1011, which amends Section 1006 of the FY 2019 NDAA, the disclosure provision covers "associated persons" in addition to the accounting firm because it is important for the DoD to know whether individuals that the accounting firm assigns to work on DoD audit contracts are subject to ongoing disciplinary proceedings.

This bill also addresses a major problem that has plagued our service members spouses for far too long. The Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset, also known as the "widow's tax" unfairly asked military spouses to forfeit money owed to them. More than 60,000 surviving military spouses were negatively affected by this tax, including many in my district. The FY20 NDAA repeals this reduction over a three-year phase-in, allowing surviving families to collect both payments in full, receiving the justice they deserve.

On employment practices, I worked tirelessly to extend direct hiring authority to domestic defense industrial base facilities when hiring civilian personnel. After extensive con-

versations with Lieutenant General Donald E. Gene Kirkland, the Commander of the Air Force Sustainment Center, I resolved to work to stem the staffing shortages at these crucial bases. These staffing shortages are happening across the nation, and reforms are critical to meet the workforce needs of today and tomorrow. I am happy to note that direct hiring authority reform was granted for civilian personnel at domestic defense industrial base facilities and the Major Range and Test Facility bases until 2025. These necessary changes are vital to meeting our national security and readiness needs.

I am also glad to note that this legislation increased the cap for DoD sole-source contracts that can be awarded to the tribal community. The cap was raised to \$100 million to ensure that our Native American businesses and contractors are given the opportunities to provide services for our military effectively.

The National Defense Authorization Act is the proud product of bipartisan policies and compromise and ensures the needs of our men and women in uniform are met on and off the battlefield. I am proud to have been a part of the process from subcommittee to passage and applaud my colleagues for achieving this reform through compromise and negotiation, to secure major accomplishments for all Americans while promoting our national security.

WELCOME ELOISE HOLST WAGNER

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Lindsay Holst and Dan Wagner of Chicago, Illinois, on the birth of their new baby girl, Eloise Holst Wagner. Eloise Holst Wagner was born on November 25, 2019, at Northwestern Prentice Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. Eloise weighed seven pounds and four ounces and measured 20 inches long.

I would also like to congratulate Eloise's grandparents, Gregg Holst and Michele Grossman of Reading, Pennsylvania, Tom and Carol Brubaker of Perkasi, Pennsylvania, John Wagner of Birmingham, Michigan, and Terry Ryan Kane of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Congratulations to the entire family as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

HONORING GEORGE TORRIE
JACKSON, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Lieutenant Colonel George Torrie Jackson, Jr. who is a native of Jackson, MS.

LTC Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and master's degree in Education Administration, both from Jackson State University. LTC Jackson is a 30-year member of the U.S. Army Reserve/Mississippi Army