



2023-2024 In Review: Policy Wins for Military Families

2025 Defense Spending Bill (NDAA) (in addition to the Quality of Life Panel recommendations):

- **Authorized \$50 million in DoD Impact Aid** for local school districts serving large numbers of military-connected children, and an additional \$20 million for schools serving military children with special needs.
- **Establishes a perinatal mental health pilot program** at select Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs).
- **Eliminates co-pays** for contraceptives.
- **License portability** for behavioral health providers serving military families.

2024 Defense Spending Bill

- **Increase in Family Separation Allowance** from \$250 to \$400 per month.
- **Extension of Commissary and Exchange privileges** to remarried surviving spouses.
- **License portability for Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)**, behavioral health providers who contract with DoD to provide non-medical counseling services in a variety of settings. This makes it easier for MFLCs to serve at multiple installations.
- **Coverage of hearing aids** for retirees' children.
- **Student loan deferment** for dislocated military spouses.

Key Priorities from Secretary Austin's Taking Care of People initiative:

- **Established health care and dependent care savings accounts** for service members.
- **Expansion of My Career Advancement Account eligibility** to spouses in all enlisted ranks.
- **Universal pre-K** at Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools.
- **Increase Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) coverage** from 14 to 21 days.