

Students for Life Action Key Vote Alert: Vote NO on the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act H.R. 2670

December 15, 2023

Dear U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate members,

On behalf of our more than 1,400 student groups and more than 180,000 trained activists across the United States, I urge you to vote against the final vote to authorize the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA.)*

Students for Life Action will score the NDAA final vote as a key vote because of the unprecedented and <u>illegal</u> <u>intrusion</u> of funding that facilitates abortion added to the military budget. This will be the first time that abortion-related funding is actively inserted at this scale, making it an historic mistake the Pro-Life Generation will not ignore. There is not even a fig leaf offering meager covering for this deadly policy. It does not provide funds for travel for military personnel of their choosing. The Biden Administration's choice is abortion travel only to end the lives of the most vulnerable in our miliary family, the preborn.

This also likely opens the door to other intrusive policies. At this point, the abortion lobby wants to add funding for abortion-related travel to the military budget. Next, they might ask why pregnant servicewomen should need to travel at all, opening the door to abortions at military medical centers. Another target for this deadly policy could be Department of Education spending, to pay for abortion travel for students in states that protect life. This horrific policy is the beginning and not the end of the debate.

Members of the U.S. Senate expressed the issue well: The policies the Department of Defense announced on February 16, 2023, are a blatant attempt to circumvent numerous federal statutes that distance the military from abortion-related decisions. Namely, it would force taxpayers to subsidize abortions by paying for service members or their dependents to travel to obtain the procedure and by granting additional leave for this purpose. Facilitating a service member's abortion through this channel violates the spirit of 10 U.S.C. § 1093, which prohibits the Department of Defense from funding elective abortions; it also brazenly departs from the Department of Defense's historic interpretation of its travel authorities in 37 U.S.C. § 452 and 453. These regulations authorize official travel for many activities, but, notably, they say nothing about funding travel to receive an elective abortion. Taking such significant liberties with federal law is a grave matter.

Please join SFLAction and the pro-life community nationwide by voting to reject the Biden administration attempt to fund abortion in the NDAA.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Savanna Deretich, who is our Government Affairs Coordinator. You may email Savanna Deretich at <u>sderetich@studentsforlifeaction.org</u>

Sincerely,

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Kristan Hawkins President Students for Life of America and Students for Life Action