

## 117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 6174

To address out-of-pocket inequities related to military service uniforms, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**DECEMBER 8, 2021** 

Mr. Wilson of South Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

## A BILL

To address out-of-pocket inequities related to military service uniforms, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Military Forces Assur-
- 5 ing that Treatment of Items by Gender are Uniform and
- 6 Equal across the Services Act of 2021" or the "Military
- 7 FATIGUES Act of 2021".
- 8 SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO MILITARY SERVICE UNIFORM
- 9 REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES.
- 10 (a) Establishment of Consistent Criteria.—

- (1) In General.—Not later than 180 days 1 2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-3 retary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and in coordination with the Secretaries concerned with 5 6 respect to the Armed Forces under their jurisdiction, 7 shall establish consistent criteria for determining 8 which uniform or clothing items across the services 9 are considered uniquely military for purposes of cal-10 culating the standard cash clothing replacement al-11 lowances, in part to reduce differences in out-of-12 pocket costs incurred by enlisted members of the 13 Armed Forces across the military services and by 14 gender within a military service.
  - (2) Review.—The Under Secretary shall review the criteria established under paragraph (1) every 5 years thereafter and recommend adjustments to enlisted clothing allowances if they are insufficient to pay for uniquely military items.
- 20 (b) Additional Reviews.—The Secretary of De-21 fense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for
- 22 Personnel and Readiness and in coordination with the Sec-
- 23 retaries of the military departments, shall—
- 24 (1) periodically review all uniform clothing 25 plans of the military services to identify data and re-

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- 1 quirements needed to facilitate cost discussions and 2 to recommend adjustments as appropriate;
- 3 (2) periodically review items in the military 4 services' calculations of the enlisted standard cash 5 clothing replacement allowances, at a minimum, 6 every 5 years and develop a standard by which to 7 identify significant cost differences that warrant 8 being addressed;
  - (3) periodically review all plans of the military services for changing uniform items to determine if the planned changes will result in significant out-ofpocket cost differences among the services or among genders; and
  - (4) periodically review initial officer clothing allowances, at a minimum, every 10 years and identify requirements needed to facilitate cost discussions and adjustment recommendations as appropriate.
- 18 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-19 gress that the cost of like items between genders should 20 be the same for members of the Armed Forces.
- 21 (d) Report.—Not later than December 31, 2022, 22 the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Sec-23 retaries of the military departments, shall submit to the 24 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the 25 House of Representatives a report on the estimated pro-

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- 1 duction and average retail prices of military clothing items
- 2 for members of each Armed Force, including both officer
- 3 and enlisted uniforms, and a comparison of costs for both
- 4 male and female military clothing items for members of

5 each of the respective services.

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