

NH STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 4 Oct 2022

Location: ECTC 722 Riverwood Dr., Pembroke, NH

OFFICERS and VOTING MEMBERS

Paul Lloyd - Chair

Andy Patterson - Vice Chair

VACANT- Secretary

Kelly Dobens - Treasurer

David Kenney - Chair Emeritus

Air Force Association

Kevin Grady (prim)

Air Force Sergeants Association

Martha Gladu (alt)

American Legion

AUSA Col. Cross Chapter

Greg d'Arbonne (prim)

Ed Harrington (alt)

Camp Resilience

Kurt Webber (prim)

Ed Harrington (alt)

Matt Dubois (alt)

Catholic War Veterans

Robert Guldner (alt)

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association

Disabled American Veterans

Rick Borrazas (prim)

Korean War Veterans

Mike Lopez (prim)

Conrad Perreault (alt)

Marine Corps League

Shawn Carboni (prim)

Military Officers Association (MOAA)

Peter Burdett (prim)

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

National Guard Association of NH

NH Army Retiree Council

NH National Guard Enlisted Association

Mike Rice (alt)

NH Veterans Association

Kelly Dobens (prim)

Patriot Resilient Leader Institute (Camp Resilience)

Ed Harrington (alt)

Reserve Officers Association of NH

David Kenney (prim)

Rolling Thunder

Bruce Garry (prim)

Keith Hurrell (alt)

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Leon Rideout (alt)

Paul Lloyd (alt)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA-41)

Ray Goulet (prim)

Legislative Members (Voting):

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS: (non-voting):

Governor's Office -

Senator Maggie Hassan - Justin Troiano

Senator Jeanne Shaheen - Chris Scott

Congressman Chris Pappas – Brett

Levasseur

Congresswoman Annie Kuster – Molly Small

COMMITTEE ADVISORS/AGENCIES:

Kevin Forrest, Director, VAMC
Manchester, NH

Kim MacKay, NH Veterans Home

Dan Marcek, VETFLIX

Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General-
NHNG

Margaret "Peggy" LaBrecque, Sage
Emeritus

Shawn Buck, NH State Veterans
Cemetery

Jorg Dreusicke, VFW Legislative
Chairman

GUESTS:

OPEN MEETING/CALL TO ORDER: Paul Lloyd, Chairman, convened meeting at 1700

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman

Invocation: Dave Kenney

Welcome - Remarks of the Chair:

Secretary's Report: Meeting has a quorum. Attendance on file. With no edits the minutes were placed in the record.

Treasurer's Report: Attached

Comments from Vice Chair- Andy gave an update on the PACT Act.

Comments from Director Emeritus – Dave Kenney

Guest Speaker(s): None

SUPPORTING AGENCY REPORTS:

Manchester VA Update: Kevin Forrest, gave an update on the happenings at both VA's, Personal updates.

DMAVS Update: Warren Perry

Gave a brief from DMAVS that included the update for DMAVS

Shawn Buck Thanked everyone that attended the 25th anniversary celebration.

NHVVH Update Kim MacKay, NH Veterans Home Commandant. Gave a brief on the Veterans Home that included the need for Nursing Staff,

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Still need a secretary.

NEW BUSINESS: The Annual report was sent out for review, being no additions, corrections. Motion by Peter Burdett and 2nd by Mike Rice to accept the annual report. No further discussion. Motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS: Kevin Grady - Legislative Chair gave a brief report/update on LSR's.

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS:

Chris Scott (Senator Shaheen): Brief report, attached

Justin Troiano (Senator Hassan): brief report

Molly Small (Rep. Annie Kuster): brief report,

Brett Levasseur (Rep. Chris Pappas): brief report,

Next meeting date: Tuesday November 1, 2022

Adjourn Meeting:

Respectfully Submitted,

JULY 18, 2022

Shaheen, Hassan Call on VA Secretary to End Discrimination Against Same-Sex Spouses

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) joined U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and 38 Democratic colleagues in the Senate in a letter to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Denis McDonough urging answers and speedy action to ensure same-sex veteran couples have access to the full and complete spousal benefits they are owed.

“Each of our veterans and their spouses deserve the same quality care and services once they leave the military – no matter who they love. Our veterans and their families, who selflessly served our nation and have sacrificed so much, must be afforded the benefits they have so rightly earned. This is not only a matter of fairness and equity, it is the morally right thing to do,” wrote the Senators. “Yet, we have recently heard from numerous survivors about issues they are facing when they attempt to access the full Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits that they are entitled to under the law.”

In the letter, the Senators underscored reported examples of VA’s refusal to deem same-sex marriages as having met the statutory marriage duration or deadline requirements when couples were legally barred from marrying within that timeframe immediately before the veteran’s death. The Senators highlighted how denying benefits in cases where same-sex couples failed to meet marriage duration requirements have left them ineligible for benefits due to living in places where marriage laws barred them from marrying—even though they were in loving, committed relationships and would have married earlier if they could.

In addition, the Senators noted VA’s setting of effective dates for benefits deepens the unconstitutional practice of same-sex marriage bans. Even after the Department of Justice announced that it would no longer enforce laws banning benefits to same-sex spouses of veterans, VA interpreted the announcement to apply retroactively, but only “as to claims for benefits based on same-sex marriages that were pending on direct review as of” the date of the Attorney General’s announcement, cutting short benefits of those in same-sex marriages who initially applied for such benefits, and were denied due to bans on same-sex marriage. The Senators made clear that VA must end its discriminatory treatment of veterans’ spouses based on who they love, and apply effective dates as though the former unconstitutional laws were never enacted.

The Senators conclude, “We promise to take care of all our veterans after they serve our country, and that includes ensuring that their partners have access to full and complete spousal benefits. Correcting this error will help end the discriminatory treatment of potentially thousands of same-sex veteran couples and allow them to access the benefits they are owed.”

Shaheen has long supported extending veteran benefits to same-sex couples and their families. The American Rescue Plan that Shaheen helped pass and was later signed into law strengthens veterans’ health care services, including to support mental health and telehealth, and also includes significant funding for job training to help veterans get good-paying jobs. Shaheen also helped secure key priorities for Granite State veterans in bipartisan veterans legislation that was signed into law last year, including the Deborah Sampson Act, which Shaheen helped introduce to eliminate barriers to care and services

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that many women veterans face. In addition, Shaheen cosponsored bipartisan legislation, which is now law, to improve veterans' access to mental health care.

AUGUST 1, 2022

Shaheen Announces More Than \$89M for Key NH Projects & Priorities in New Government Funding Proposal

\$11,700,000 to Support Granite State Veterans & Military Construction

New Childcare Facility at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard: Senator Shaheen secured \$2,500,000 for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to develop a combined childcare facility to meet demand and avoid building size restrictions associated with the limitations on available space at the Shipyard. The proposed project would be a joint effort by the Navy and the New Hampshire Air National Guard to leverage free space at the nearby Pease Air National Guard Base for the building construction.

New Staging Area in Berlin to Assist NHNG: Senator Shaheen helped include \$5,200,000 for the New Hampshire National Guard to construct a Berlin Hangar and Aviation Operations Building. This facility includes a 9,000 square foot hangar for to store two helicopters and perform emergency maintenance, as well as creating an administrative space, a small classroom and locker room. The ability to use Berlin as a staging area significantly reduces the flight time from the Concord area to the White Mountains, maximizing actual flight training and on station search and rescue time for the crews. This facility would provide additional resources unavailable at this time; maintenance, refuel, communication, safety, bed down location and positive economic impact to the local community.

Replacing Arms Range to Improve Military Readiness of NHNG: Senator Shaheen helped secure \$2,000,000 for the New Hampshire National Guard to begin replacement of its 67-year-old small arms range. Replacing the range with a new fully enclosed range will provide the NHNG with increased service member readiness within an environmentally contained range for year-round use and reduce hazards for service members.

Supporting Wellness & Readiness of NHNG Families & Veterans: Senator Shaheen supported the inclusion of \$2,000,000 for the development of a new Wellness Center for the New Hampshire National Guard (NHNG) and New Hampshire veteran community. The proposed Wellness Center would provide a space for wellness programs that are the cornerstone of the Fort New Hampshire framework, which enhances the wellness and readiness of a wide variety of military-affiliated audiences to include family members and veterans. The proposed 28,600 square foot facility will provide secure, versatile and flexible military- and community-based program spaces to include: fitness and training center, large multi-purpose spaces, classrooms, chapel and administrative offices. The proposed facility would provide office space for wellness program elements to support service members, veterans, individuals and families with numerous Department of Defense programs such as health and fitness, suicide prevention and outreach, behavioral health programs, transition assistance, veterans' benefits and others. This new facility will support the increased growth of Wellness Division staff from 24 to 69 members, as the NHNG Wellness Programs continue to expand.

AUGUST 31, 2022

Shaheen Posthumously Presents Congressional Gold Medal to Son of NH World War II Merchant Marine

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) participated in the presentation ceremony of the Congressional Gold Medal to the family of World War II Captain Dwight A. Smith, who served in the Merchant Marines. The medal was presented to Captain Dwight A. Smith's son, Dwight A. Smith Jr., at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton. Shaheen and her staff worked closely with the Smith family to obtain this medal.

"I was honored to take part in today's ceremony honoring the life and service of Captain Dwight A. Smith, who served in the Merchant Marines during World War II. American Merchant Marines were instrumental to the war effort, serving as the supply line for U.S. troops and our Allies. Without their integral role and contributions, victory would not have been possible," said Senator Shaheen. "I was honored to help the Smith family obtain this medal for Captain Smith and grateful to present it to his son Dwight, who carried on his father's legacy of service to our nation."

In 2019, Shaheen supported legislation – which is now law – to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. Merchant Mariners of World War II. The Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act recognized the dedicated and vital service of the 290,000 men – including Captain Dwight A. Smith – who served in the Merchant Marine and risked their lives transporting American soldiers, supplies and equipment over the seas in support of the Allied war effort.

In the afternoon, Shaheen toured the Wright Museum of World War II in Wolfeboro where she discussed her successful push in Congress to pass the bipartisan Greatest Generation Commemorative Coin Act, which was signed into law earlier this month. The new law will help preserve a public space to honor and remember veterans who bravely fought in WWII. The law authorizes the U.S. Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation during World War II, and proceeds from the coin sales will go toward much-needed repairs and maintenance to the National World War II Memorial at no cost to taxpayers. Shaheen and Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) led the legislation in the U.S. Senate.

"It was wonderful to be in Wolfeboro to pay tribute to the heroic men and women of the Greatest Generation," said Senator Shaheen. "I am so proud to have partnered with Senator Rounds to secure passage of the bipartisan Greatest Generation Commemorative Coin Act, which President Biden recently signed into law. Our bill is an investment on behalf of veterans and military families to have a public space at the National World War II Memorial to pay tribute to those who risked or gave their lives for our nation and the values we hold dear. I appreciated the opportunity to share the good news about our bill and to tour the Wright Museum with advocates and staff as we remember our fallen heroes. I'll continue to pursue efforts in the Senate that will ensure our military members and families always have the support of their communities."

Senator Shaheen has worked across the aisle to honor and pay tribute to American fallen heroes and veterans. Shaheen successfully led bipartisan efforts in Congress to establish a memorial for the men lost aboard the USS Thresher at Arlington National Cemetery. Senator Shaheen delivered the keynote

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address at the dedication for the memorial. Shaheen also fought to include her bipartisan legislation to ensure all members of the Reserve Component and the National Guard are eligible to be buried in state veterans cemeteries in the fiscal year 2022 government funding bill that is now law.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Shaheen Statement on Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Economic Impact Report

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, issued the following statement in response to the release of the Seacoast Shipyard Association's Annual Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Economic Impact Report for 2021:

"The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is a staple in the Seacoast region and a point of pride for our state. The economic impact report released today underscores the Shipyard's contributions to New Hampshire's economy at both the local and state level. Its success is a credit to the caliber of its workforce," said Shaheen. "The Shipyard not only boosts the Seacoast's economic vitality, but it plays a significant role in support of our military readiness and overall national defense. I'll continue to advocate for the Shipyard and its workers as the Senate works toward finalizing annual defense and government funding legislation for the upcoming fiscal year. Ensuring continued resources to complete the Multi-Mission Dry Dock project and to address urgent issues impacting working families, such as access to affordable child care, will continue to be top of mind. I'll always go to bat for the Shipyard and the hardworking men and women who work day and night so that it can complete its missions."

Shaheen is a fierce advocate for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and its workers. Shaheen has historically secured annual authorization and federal funding for the Multi-Mission Dry Dock modernization project. In the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, Shaheen again secured these investments, which included \$475 million in funding for the Multi-Mission Dry Dock project. In June, with advocacy from Senator Shaheen, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which included \$503 million for the construction project.

In addition to her leadership through the Senate Armed Services Committee on annual defense legislation, Shaheen also prioritizes other legislation in the Senate in support of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. This includes the *Supplying Help to Infrastructure in Ports, Yards, and America's Repair Docks* (SHIPYARD) Act of 2021, which she introduced earlier this year with Senator Wicker (R-MS), and would provide \$25 billion to make investments needed to optimize, improve and rebuild shipyard facilities, electrical infrastructure, environmental systems, and the equipment of public and private shipyards in the U.S. that support the U.S. Navy fleet. Shaheen and Wicker are co-chairs of the Senate Navy Caucus. Shaheen also secured more than \$700 million in funding to support the U.S. submarine work force and submarine industrial base.

SEPTEMBER 09, 2022

Shaheen, Cotton Lead "National Warrior Call Day" In Support of U.S. Veterans

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(Washington, DC) – U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and U.S. Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) introduced a resolution this week designating a “National Warrior Call Day” encouraging community members to reach out to veterans to foster a social connection and in support of mental health wellbeing. Shaheen’s resolution would designate Sunday, November 13th as National Warrior Call Day, which follows Veterans Day in an effort to bolster action from community members in support of veterans.

“The alarming rate of suicide among our veteran community demands an all-hands-on deck approach to provide support and resources to veterans so no one in crisis slips through the cracks. Everyone can play a supporting role in that effort, including members of our community, which is why I’m leading this resolution to encourage friends, family and neighbors to reach out to veterans around them. It is on all of us to remind our hometown heroes that not only are we grateful for their service and sacrifice, but to make clear that they are not alone and have people around them to seek help from and rely on,” said Senator Shaheen. “As the anniversary of 9/11 draws near and in the aftermath of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan one year ago, it can be a particularly difficult time of year for many veterans. I appreciate the bipartisan support for this resolution and will work to advance this effort through the Senate.”

“Support for our troops shouldn't end when they return home — but it doesn't always take a new federal program. Sometimes all you need is a call from a friend, family member, or battle buddy,” said Senator Cotton. “Our resolution will remind Americans that they are the greatest support system for our vets, and that a simple call can make all the difference.”

The resolution is also cosponsored by U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), John Hoeven (R-ND), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Angus King (I-ME), Edward J. Markey (D-MA), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Bob Casey (D-PA) and John Boozman (R-AR).

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Shaheen Helps Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Help Veterans Access Their Service Records

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) today joined Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) in a bipartisan push to help more veterans access their service records by introducing the bipartisan Access for Veterans to Records Act, alongside Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN).

The bill, *S.4816 (To require the Archivist of the United States to submit to Congress a comprehensive plan for reducing the backlog of requests for records from the National Personnel Records Center, and for other purposes)*, will help eliminate the current backlog of veterans’ record requests at the National Personnel Records Center. The bipartisan legislation will help more veterans and their families obtain their military records, which are often required to access critical care and benefits veterans earn through their service to the nation.

“Administrative challenges should never prevent veterans from accessing the critical care and benefits they deserve. Congress must take action – that’s why I’m helping introduce this bill to address the backlog of personnel records to ensure veterans can swiftly process their claims and access the benefits

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they have earned. By creating systems and infrastructure to streamline veterans' ability to access records, we can better deliver on their benefits and needs, from health care and housing to jobs training and education," said Shaheen. "I'll keep fighting to ensure veterans can access the full range of benefits they've earned through their service to our nation."

Senator Shaheen has spearheaded efforts in the Senate in support of veterans and military families. Shaheen worked to include provisions and helped pass the historic PACT Act, which expands health care for post-9/11 combat veterans. In the fiscal year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that was signed into law, Shaheen successfully included a provision based on her bipartisan legislation with Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) that improves the transferability of military spouses' occupational licenses, and also helps alleviate the burden spouses endure if they're small business owners from having to constantly re-register their businesses as they move from state to state with their families. In government funding legislation for FY2022 unveiled by the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier this year, Shaheen successfully secured \$3 million to implement the legislation. Additionally, the funding legislation includes \$22 million for the Beyond Yellow Ribbon (BYR) program, which funds the New Hampshire National Guard's Care Coordination Program. BYR programs provide outreach services to troops returning from deployment, including health care, marriage and financial counseling, substance misuse treatment and mental health services. The FY2020 NDAA also included a provision Shaheen fought for that eliminates the military "widow's tax" that prevents as many as 65,000 surviving military spouses nationwide from receiving their full Department of Defense (DOD) and VA survivor benefits.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Shaheen, Rounds Lead Bipartisan Letter Pushing for Increased Action from Pentagon to Address PFAS Exposure at Military Installations

U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Mike Rounds (R-SD), senior members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, led a bipartisan letter to Department of Defense (DoD) Secretary Lloyd Austin and White House officials, urging increased funding for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) testing and remediation, and to improve PFAS-related planning to make use of the higher funding levels Congress is willing to appropriate to address the pervasive issue.

The Senators wrote, in part, "As you know, PFAS chemicals have emerged as widespread contaminants to the drinking water sources of military bases across the country largely due to their presence in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) used by the military. Members of the military, veterans and civilians who have served at military installations and/or live in the surrounding communities found to have been contaminated with PFAS face health risks related to exposure to PFAS chemicals, as these materials are found in AFFF, in personal protective equipment used by firefighters and in standard consumer products."

The Senators went on to detail the findings of a recent National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report that calls for expanded access to PFAS testing for Americans with a history of exposure to the chemicals and points to health risks such as high cholesterol, decreased fetal and infant growth and increased risks of kidney cancer for those exposed to PFAS. The Senators then continued to detail

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the robust amount of federal dollars provided by Congress to DoD to accelerate PFAS testing remediation and Congress' continued willingness to provide additional resources to address the challenges the Department faces due to PFAS exposure.

They closed their letter by urging the administration to put greater emphasis on addressing these pollutants. The Senators wrote, "Our service members, military families, veterans and defense communities deserve the Department's full attention to appropriately address the scope and severity of PFAS contamination. We ask you to honor that responsibility and take the steps necessary to prioritize this hazard impacting our communities."

In addition to Shaheen and Rounds, the letter is signed by thirty-eight lawmakers, including U.S. Senators Hassan (D-NH), Braun (R-IN), King (I-ME), Brown (D-OH), Blumenthal (D-CT), Van Hollen (D-MD), Warren (D-MA), Baldwin (D-WI), Peters (D-MI), Lujan (D-NM), Gillibrand (D-NY), Durbin (D-IL), Kaine (D-VA), Bennet (D-CO), Sinema (D-AZ), Murray (D-WA), Feinstein (D-CA), Booker (D-NJ), Warnock (D-GA), Padilla (D-CA), Casey (D-PA), Rosen (D-NV), Duckworth (D-IL), Cortez Masto (D-NV), Heinrich (D-NM), Kelly (D-AZ), Cantwell (D-WA), Cardin (D-MD), Ossoff (D-GA), Stabenow (D-MI), Schatz (D-HI), Hickenlooper (D-CO), Sanders (I-VT), Leahy (D-VT), Manchin (D-WV), Wyden (D-OR), Merkley (D-OR) and Markey (D-MA).

Senator Shaheen leads efforts in Congress to uncover the potential health effects related to PFAS contamination, respond to the chemical exposure and remediate polluted sites. In the fiscal year (FY) 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier this year, Senator Shaheen was successful in including numerous PFAS provisions, including the authorization of an additional \$20 million to continue the PFAS health impact study that she created in the 2018 NDAA. Because of her efforts, Pease is serving as a model site for the nationwide study. In addition, Senator Shaheen added an amendment requesting the Department of Defense to prohibit DoD from purchasing PFAS-laden firefighting turnout gear after October 1, 2026. This follows Shaheen-led efforts to expand blood testing and treatment for firefighters exposed to PFAS and a similar amendment she secured to ban the use of PFAS-laden firefighting foam in the FY 2020 NDAA. Senator Shaheen also included an amendment to clarify in statute that the National Guard can access Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) funds for PFAS cleanup at state-owned Guard facilities, which will save the Guard millions in funds they have previously been forced to divert from training and operations. Finally, Senator Shaheen successfully led on enhanced transparency by ensuring the Department of the Air Force is sharing PFAS test results with impacted communities. Just last week, Shaheen visited Pease International Tradeport – the former Air Force Base – with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Region 1, Dr. David Cash, to discuss the Biden administration's progress toward recognizing two of the most prevalent PFAS chemicals – PFOA and PFOS – as hazardous chemicals under the law.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Shaheen Introduces New Legislation to Protect Service Members' Right to Reproductive Care

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a senior member of the Senate Armed Services committee, introduced an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to enshrine the right for service members to access protected leave for abortion care and services.

The Shaheen amendment codifies the right for service members to access convalescent leave for purposes of abortion care and services and allows leave for service members who are caregivers for dependents seeking such reproductive care. Since the Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, 21 states have introduced total or partial abortion bans, limiting access to essential reproductive care for approximately 80,000 active-duty service women stationed in the continental United States.

"It is unacceptable that service members now face limited or no access to abortion care, just because of where they are stationed as part of their service to our nation," said Senator Shaheen. "As women across the United States face restricted access to essential healthcare, the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* has a particularly devastating impact on our military – it sends the message that our women in uniform are less valuable and their healthcare is less important. Nothing could be further from the truth. I'm proud to lead this amendment to strengthen our national security and get service members the healthcare they need and deserve."

The Shaheen amendment addresses the impact of the overturn of *Roe* on our service members by:

- Ensuring service members have guaranteed and timely access to non-chargeable convalescent leave to obtain abortion care and services;
- Standardizing the leave for such care to ensure service members have equitable leave access;
- Provides service members that have a dependent accessing abortion care and services guaranteed access to caregiver leave;
- Preserves service member privacy; and
- Prevents service members from incurring financial hardship associated with travel to access care them from suffering financial hardship as a result of their service to the nation.

The amendment is cosponsored by Senators Markey (D-MA), Gillibrand (D-NY), Durbin (D-IL), Baldwin (D-WI), Menendez (D-NJ), Sanders (I-VT), King (I-ME), Schatz (D-HI), Blumenthal (D-CT), Heinrich (D-NM), Feinstein (D-CA), Hirono (D-HI), Wyden (D-OR), Hassan (D-NH), Cantwell (D-WA), Murphy (D-CT), Leahy (D-VT), Hickenlooper (D-CO), Warren (D-MA), Booker (D-NJ), Bennet (D-CO), Carper (D-DE) and Klobuchar (D-MN).

The Shaheen amendment is supported by numerous veterans services and reproductive rights organizations, including the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), NARAL Pro-Choice America, VoteVets, the National Partnership for Women and Families, Protect Our Defenders and Operation Liberty.

"The Supreme Court's devastating decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* has given states the green light to gut abortion access. It is critical that servicemembers - many of whom are forced to travel out of state for an abortion - are guaranteed leave to access that care. We thank Senator Shaheen for filing an

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amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would guarantee this leave. All people, including members of our Armed Forces, should be able to control their own bodies, lives, and futures - without political interference.” - Leila Abolfazli, Director of Federal Reproductive Rights, National Women’s Law Center

“The extreme Court decision to undo decades of precedent on the right to choose has left far too many service members in places where they cannot access care they need, simply because of where they’re based. In essence, this creates a number of second and third-class troops who are afforded fewer rights, only because of geography. Some troops will have broad access to care. Some may only be able to access it under certain exemptions. Some may not be able to access it at all. It is crucial that every pregnant service member be afforded the same right to care – including termination of pregnancy. This bill will go a long way towards ensuring that. We’re very proud to endorse it and applaud Senator Shaheen and her colleagues.” — Mary Kaszynski, Director of Government Relations, VoteVets

“Given the unprecedented challenges posed by the outcome of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization on our nation's service members, it is imperative that Congress take action to protect those who don't have a choice in where they are stationed to live. Protect Our Defenders applauds Senator Shaheen's actions to address this critical issue, particularly in light of the ever-growing crisis of rape in the military. Securing access to reproductive health services and allowing for the appropriate convalescent leave are critical to ensuring and supporting the safety and well-being of our service members.” — Don Christensen, President, Protect Our Defenders

Senator Shaheen is an unrelenting advocate for women’s reproductive rights and has long prioritized access to comprehensive reproductive health care for service women. A senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in 2013, Shaheen included an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which expanded access to abortion care for service women to bring the Department of Defense to parity with other Federal agencies. Shaheen held a press conference with the New Hampshire delegation and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England to discuss what’s at stake for women’s freedoms and reproductive health with the overturning of Roe v. Wade, and she spoke on the Senate floor to urge lawmakers to vote in favor of legislation that would codify Roe. For years, Shaheen has fought to expand coverage of women’s preventative care, including through her legislation to reduce the cost of contraception for servicewomen and dependents in military families. In March, she joined HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra in Manchester for a meeting with New Hampshire family planning providers amid continued attacks from State and congressional Republicans. She also penned an op-ed for the Union Leader underscoring the threats to women’s freedoms and rights in a post-Roe America.

Check Register

LEGEND

DC = Debit Card
 CK = Check WrittenAutomated Teller Wit
 AD = Automatic Deposit

AP = Automatic Payment
 BP = Online Bill Pay
 TR = Online or Phone Transfer

CURRENT BALANCE

\$1,002.67

CHECK/CODE	DATE	TRANSACTION	DESCRIPTION	WITHDRAWAL	Cleared	DEPOSIT	BALANCE
	6/1/2018	Deposit	Opening Balance			\$366.00	\$366.00
AD	7/11/2018	Deposit				\$100.00	\$466.00
AD	8/7/2018	Deposit				\$100.00	\$566.00
CK 251	10/2/2018	Dave Kenney	2018 Summer Outing Food/Bev/Paper	\$412.82	Yes		\$153.18
Ck 253	10/2/2018	Dan Mercek	Payment for Award trophy	\$85.00	yes		\$68.18
AD	12/4/2018	Deposit				\$100.00	\$168.18
AD	6/7/2019	Deposit	VFW 41			\$100.00	\$268.18
AD	6/18/2019	Deposit	VVA			\$100.00	\$368.18
AD	6/20/2019	Deposit	Martins Point			\$100.00	\$468.18
AD	6/26/2019	Deposit	AUSA			\$100.00	\$568.18
AD	7/18/2019	Deposit	Rolling Thunder			\$100.00	\$668.18
AD	8/9/2019	Deposit	National Guard			\$250.00	\$918.18
Ck 254	10/1/2019	Saymore Trophy Company	VOIDED and rewritten to Dan	\$0.00	Yes		\$918.18
Ck 255	10/4/2019	Dan Mercek	Payment for Award trophy	\$85.00	Yes		\$833.18
AD	11/21/2019	Deposit	Retired Officers			\$100.00	\$933.18
Ck 252	1/8/2020	MG Gretchen Dunkelberger	Coffee for Meeting	\$35.51			\$897.67
Ck 101	10/6/2020	Dan Mercek	Spirit Award Trophy	\$95.00			\$802.67
AD	4/9/2021	Deposit	Nat. Guard Assoc of NH			\$100.00	\$902.67
AD	4/9/2021	Deposit	Air Force Assoc.			\$100.00	\$1,002.67

CHECK/CODE	DATE	TRANSACTION	DESCRIPTION	WITHDRAWAL	Cleared	DEPOSIT	BALANCE
Totals		Transaction count: 20		\$713.33		\$1,716.00	\$1,002.67