



June 25, 2026

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
House Rules Committee
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Ranking Member
House Rules Committee
H-152 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member McGovern:

The Center for Defense Information and the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) have worked to promote a strong, efficient U.S. defense establishment for nearly half a century. POGO is a nonpartisan, independent watchdog that investigates, exposes, and champions reforms on systemic corruption, abuse of power, and waste. As such, we feel it is important to flag sections of next year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that we believe will improve military readiness, reduce wasteful spending, and provide safer environments for our service members and the people they protect.

As the House Rules Committee considers amendments, we have identified a selection that we believe merit particular consideration. We've grouped these select amendments into five key focus areas: conflicts of interest, military support to domestic law enforcement, congressional oversight, war powers, and top line budget considerations.¹

Conflicts of Interest

Financial conflicts of interest corrode public trust. We have continually advocated for reforms that would limit opportunities for these conflicts to arise and close loopholes that enable conflicts (either perceived or actual) to exist. We have a history of advocating for congressional stock-trading bans and other similar reforms.² Most recently, we have weighed in on the potential for

¹ Numbers and summaries of listed amendments are those provided online by the House Rules Committee. See "H.R. 8800 – National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027," Committee on Rules, United States House of Representatives, last accessed June 23, 2026, <https://rules.house.gov/bill/119/hr-8800>.

² Dylan Hedtler-Gaudette, "It's Finally Time to Ban Congressional Stock Trading," Project On Government Oversight, September 8, 2025, <https://www.pogo.org/analyses/its-finally-time-to-ban-congressional-stock-trading>.

corruption surrounding prediction markets.³ As such, we support the following amendments addressing conflicts of interest as they pertain to the Department of Defense (DOD): Amendments 168, 621, 630, and 941.⁴

Military Support to Domestic Law Enforcement

Since mid-2025, we have worked to highlight the domestic deployment of the National Guard and other federal troops to U.S. cities as a dramatic overreach of executive power that normalizes the presence of uniformed federal forces in American cities. We maintain that these deployments are often legally dubious and do serious damage to public safety, military readiness, and civil-military norms.⁵ We have repeatedly urged Congress to use its constitutional powers to reverse these deployments and practice necessary oversight of the executive branch in future deployments.⁶ As such, we strongly support the following amendments that address this issue: Amendments 3, 15, 159, 252, 462, 622, 838, 1074, and 1075.⁷

³ Janice Luong, “Prediction Markets Open the Door for Corruption and Conflicts,” Project On Government Oversight, March 30, 2026, <https://www.pogo.org/analyses/prediction-markets-open-the-door-for-corruption-and-conflicts>.

⁴ “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Tlaib of Michigan,” Amendment 168, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/TLAIB_150_xml260617095540334.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Scholten of Michigan,” Amendment 621, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/SCHOLT_125_xml260618130015583.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Deluzio of Pennsylvania,” Amendment 630, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/DELUZI_141_xml260618130433828.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Goodlander of New Hampshire,” Amendment 941, [https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/GOODNH_061_xml%20\(4\)260618161109239.pdf](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/GOODNH_061_xml%20(4)260618161109239.pdf).

⁵ Virginia Burger, “The Cost of Domestic Deployment,” Project On Government Oversight, July 20, 2025, <https://www.pogo.org/analyses/the-cost-of-domestic-deployment>; Don Bell, Katherine Hawkins, and David Janovsky, “FAQ: The L.A. Protests, Military Deployment, and the Constitution,” Project On Government Oversight, June 12, 2025, <https://www.pogo.org/analyses/faq-the-l-a-protests-military-deployment-and-the-constitution>.

⁶ Virginia Burger, “Congress Must Act to Curtail Domestic Deployment,” Project On Government Oversight, September 18, 2025, <https://www.pogo.org/testimonies/congress-must-act-to-curtail-domestic-deployment>.

⁷ “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Norton of District of Columbia,” Amendment 3, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/NORTON_124_xml260612102717686.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Norton of District of Columbia,” Amendment 15, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/NORTON_126_xml260612133249862.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Salinas of Oregon,” Amendment 159, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/SALINA_100_xml260617094535443.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Ramirez,” Amendment 252, <https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/AMDT%20-%20Prohibit%20any%20funds%20to%20be%20used%20in%20contracts%20with%20private%20security%20companies260617143205915.pdf>; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Norton of District of Columbia,” Amendment 462, <https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/NORTON%20DRAFT%20AMDT260618104713160.pdf>; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Deluzio of Pennsylvania,” Amendment 622, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/DELUZI_140_xml260618130041271.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Tlaib of Michigan,” Amendment 838, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/TLAIB_178_xml260618152506479.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Garcia of Illinois,” Amendment 1074, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/NDAA%20Amendment_%20Oversight%20of%20the%201122%20Program260618164738897.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Boebert of Colorado,” Amendment 1075, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/BOEBER_095_xml260618164805708.pdf.

Congressional Oversight

It is vital to our national security that Congress frequently and appropriately exercise necessary oversight of the DOD to ensure the military is being run accountably and efficiently. We frequently call for Congress to increase oversight efforts in a variety of areas, such as protecting the power of the purse, strengthening the role of inspectors general, and promoting transparency in government operations.⁸ As such, we are encouraging members to support the following amendments: Amendments 210, 299, 486, 551, 575, 597, 641, 645, 693, 975, and 1013.⁹

The power of the purse is a vital tool of congressional oversight, and ensuring the DOD spends taxpayer money appropriately is a major part of that power. We have argued in the past that the Pentagon's inability to pass a clean financial audit is both a glaring emblem of waste and an obstacle to finding and rooting out that waste.¹⁰ We believe Congress needs to use the power of the purse to force the issue and support legislation penalizing the DOD for its failure, rather than

⁸ Greg Williams, "Congressional Oversight of Defense Spending," Project On Government Oversight, January 20, 2025, <https://www.pogo.org/analyses/congressional-oversight-of-defense-spending>; Danielle Brian, "The Inspector General Caucus Must Stand Up Against Trump's Illegal Firings," Project On Government Oversight, January 28, 2025, <https://www.pogo.org/analyses/the-inspector-general-caucus-must-stand-up-against-trumps-illegal-firings>.

⁹ "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Min of California" Amendment 210, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/MIN_073_xml%20-%20CCA%20Amendment260617122039002.pdf; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mrs. Miller-Meeks of Iowa," Amendment 299, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/MILLIA_089_xml260617154601940.pdf; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mrs. Cammack of Florida," Amendment 486, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/CAMMAC_091_xml260618110742710.pdf; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Ms. Scholten of Michigan," Amendment 551, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/SCHOLT_134_xml260618114421619.pdf; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Crow of Colorado," Amendment 575, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/CROWCO_157_xml260618120646890.pdf; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Nunn of Iowa," Amendment 597, <https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/U.S.%20-%20Israel%20Air%20and%20Missile%20Defense%20Final%20Bill%20Text260618123350400.pdf>; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Van Epps of Tennessee," Amendment 641, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/VANEPP_032_xml260618131254587.pdf; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Van Epps of Tennessee," Amendment 645, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/VANEPP_030_xml260618131411897.pdf; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Begich of Alaska," Amendment 693, <https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/Assessment%20of%20Resilient%20missile%20defense%20sensing%20architectures%20-%20BEGICH%20NDAA%20DRAFT260618135335440.pdf>; "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Garamendi of California," Amendment 975, [https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/GARAME_087_xml%20\(1\)260618161738339.pdf](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/GARAME_087_xml%20(1)260618161738339.pdf); "Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Stanton of Arizona," Amendment 1013, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/STANAZ_120_xml260618162853156.pdf.

¹⁰ *The War on Waste: Stamping out the Scourge of Improper Payments and Fraud: Hearing Before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 119th Cong.*, (February 12, 2025) (testimony of Dylan Hedtler-Gaudette, director of government affairs, Project On Government Oversight), <https://www.pogo.org/testimonies/pogo-calls-for-focus-on-real-reforms-to-improve-federal-spending-accountability-and-transparency>.

continuing to reward the only federal agency to never pass an audit.¹¹ As such, we strongly support the following amendments pertaining to the DOD audit: Amendments 138 and 298.¹²

War Powers

We believe that the Constitution unambiguously gives Congress — not the president — the power to declare war, and that the open-ended Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMFs) that have carried the legal weight to justify more than a dozen conflicts worldwide have deviated from their original purposes. We regularly call for the repeal of these past AUMFs and for legislation that will shore up and reaffirm Congress’s constitutional war powers.¹³ And we remain concerned that Congress hasn’t passed any AUMFs for conflicts such as Operation Epic Fury and Operation Southern Spear. We believe the following amendments will help promote these goals, and we encourage members to support them: Amendments 207, 209, 232, 238, 240, 296, and 1006.¹⁴

Top Line Budget Considerations

We are not shy in our assertions that the Pentagon budget was already bloated and poorly managed prior to this year’s skyrocketing budget proposals.¹⁵ We believe this year’s record-breaking \$1.5 trillion proposed budget does not improve national security, but merely throws more money at an already wasteful, inefficient system. After years of failed audits and reckless spending, the Pentagon needs rigorous oversight, not an unjustified raise. Without major reforms, we will oppose these top line increases to the budget. In fact, we advocate that until Congress

¹¹ Omar Tabuni, “Fact Sheet; Auditing the Department of Defense,” Project On Government Oversight, November 5, 2024, <https://www.pogo.org/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-auditing-the-department-of-defense>.

¹² “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Biggs of Arizona” Amendment 138, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/BIGGS_128_xml260616165311614.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Casar of Texas,” Amendment 298, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/CASAR_054_xml%5b85%5d260617154615924.pdf.

¹³ Dylan Hedtler-Gaudette, “Fact Sheet: Reclaiming Congress’s War Power,” Project On Government Oversight, January 20, 2025, <https://www.pogo.org/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-reclaiming-congresss-war-power>; Project On Government Oversight, “As the Administration Launches Strikes Against Iran, Congress Must Reclaim Its Constitutional War Powers,” Press Release, February 28, 2026, <https://www.pogo.org/press-center/release/as-the-administration-launches-strikes-against-iran-congress-must-reclaim-its-constitutional-war-powers>.

¹⁴ “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Griffith of Virginia,” Amendment 207, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/GRIFVA_063_xml_person260617121607729.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Griffith of Virginia,” Amendment 209, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/GRIFVA_063_xml_citizen260617121757397.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Barrett of Michigan,” Amendment 232, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/BARRMI_070_xml260617140544591.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Barrett of Michigan,” Amendment 238, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/BARRMI_071_xml260617141429557.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Barrett of Michigan,” Amendment 240, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/BARRMI_072_xml260617142050330.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Sherman of California,” Amendment 296, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/SHERMA_145_xml260617154159444.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Ryan of New York,” Amendment 1006, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/RYANNY_097_xml260618162527951.pdf.

¹⁵ Project On Government Oversight, “POGO Warns \$450 Billion Pentagon Budget Hike Would Undermine Oversight and Accountability,” Press Release, February 5, 2026, <https://www.pogo.org/press-center/release/pogo-warns-450-billion-pentagon-budget-hike-would-undermine-oversight-and-accountability>.

passes a budget in regular order, we support returning to the spending levels of the FY 2025 budget, the last one passed in regular order. As such, we were thrilled to see amendments put forward to address this issue, and we wholeheartedly support them: Amendments 511 and 673.¹⁶

Thank you for your consideration of the merits of these amendments. If you have questions regarding our support or opposition to any specific section, please reach out to me at greg.williams@pogo.org.

Sincerely,



Greg Williams
Director, Center for Defense Information at the Project On Government Oversight

¹⁶ “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Moulton of Massachusetts,” Amendment 511, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/MOULTO_095_Toplevel%20Cut_HOLC%20V1260618112021836.pdf; “Amendment to Rules Committee Print 119-33 Offered by Mr. Pocan of Wisconsin,” Amendment 673, https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/POCAN_038_xml260618133417819.pdf