

## **Military Housing Readiness Council Act**

*Senators Elizabeth Warren, Jeanne Shaheen, and Mazie Hirono and Representatives Sara Jacobs and Stephanie Bice*

### **Background:**

Military families continue to experience unsafe conditions in privatized military housing such as toxic mold, challenges with maintenance requests, families being forced to sign non-disclosure agreements to receive compensation for damaged property, and other safety issues. One in five active-duty family respondents to the 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey [reported](#) that their family was exposed to environmental toxins in on-base military housing. Although Congress passed multiple reforms in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to help address these concerns, the Department of Defense has been slow to implement changes such as creating a public complaint database. The *Military Housing Readiness Council Act* provides a platform for oversight and accountability of privatized military housing to give military families a voice and bring together experts to ensure military families have the safe housing they deserve.

Specifically, the Council would do the following:

### ***Provide Enhanced Oversight***

- Review and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding policies for privatized military housing, including inspection practices, resident surveys, landlord payment of medical bills for residents of housing units that have not maintained minimum standards of habitability, and access to maintenance work order systems.
- Monitor the Department of Defense's compliance with and implementation of statutory and regulatory improvements to policies for privatized military housing, including the Military Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of Rights and the public military housing complaint database.

### ***Regularly Engage Stakeholders***

- Draw membership from the Department of Defense; every military service; officer and enlisted service members; spouses of officers and enlisted service members; a representative of the International Code Council; professionals in housing, personnel certification, and construction standards; organizations that advocate on behalf of military families regarding housing; a representative of the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification; and other members to be selected by the chairs and ranking members of the armed services committees.
- Require the Council to meet twice a year.
- Make additional recommendations to improve collaboration, awareness, and promotion of accurate and timely information about privatized military housing, including accommodations available through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

### ***Provides Transparency***

- Require annual reporting to the Secretary and the congressional defense committees on the Council's activities, including analyses of complaints of tenants of housing units; data received on maintenance response time and completion of maintenance requests; assessments of dispute resolution processes, housing inspections, and overall customer service; and any survey results conducted or received by the Council.