

Restore Military Families' Voices Act

Senator Elizabeth Warren & Congresswoman Sara Jacobs

Support for service members and military families includes ensuring they have a safe and sanitary place to live. Unfortunately, private housing companies that serve military families have too often evaded responsibility when they fail to provide adequate housing, using non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) to silence tenants.¹

The *Restore Military Families' Voices Act* would end the abuse of NDAs for military families living in privatized military housing. Specifically, the bill would:

- **Ban landlords from requesting that military families sign NDAs.** Under current law, a landlord may not require a tenant to sign an NDA in connection with a lease. The bill would strengthen that protection by prohibiting landlords from requesting that tenants sign NDAs, without affecting tenants' abilities to request NDAs.
- **Expand NDA protections to cover all housing services.** Existing law only limits NDAs for military families in connection with "entering into, continuing, or terminating a lease." The bill bolsters that language by prohibiting landlords from requesting NDAs in exchange for the provision of any services related to their housing units, including repairs.
- **Eliminate the loophole that allows landlords to require NDAs for legal settlements.** Under existing law, a landlord may require a tenant to sign an NDA in connection with a legal settlement. The bill eliminates that loophole, while leaving tenants with the opportunity to request an NDA in connection with a settlement if they so choose.

¹ Military.com, "98 Military Families Silenced by Nondisclosure Agreements with Private Base Housing Companies," Patricia Kime, March 30, 2023, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/30/98-military-families-silenced-nondisclosure-agreements-private-base-housing-companies.html>.