

**Amendment to H.R. 5515**  
**National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019**

**Offered by:**

**Congressman Salud O. Carbajal**

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 5515, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

**Development and procurement of combat equipment and clothing for female servicemembers in combat occupations**

The Committee notes that in June 2015 the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology provided guidance to the services to take immediate steps to ensure that combat equipment is properly designed and fitted for female servicemembers. In 2016, the Committee recognized that the Services had been conducting anthropometric studies on male and female servicemembers in order to properly outfit and equip their respective servicemembers. However, although more than 600 women have competed for and joined newly opened ground combat units in the Army and Marine Corps, the Committee is concerned that properly designed and fitted combat equipment, gear, and clothing is not consistently available to women warfighters. That concern also encompasses other women from all the services who continue to deploy to areas where they too need properly fitting combat and organizational gear. The Committee believes that female servicemembers in physically demanding occupations like infantry and armor are not positioned for success and their lethality and safety is compromised if they are required to train and perform in equipment not designed for their body type. Properly designed and fitted equipment for women should be available beginning with initial entry training through any and all deployments.

Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the service chiefs, to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act. The report shall include:

- (1) Information about the status of procuring and issuing the following to all females serving in or training for, infantry and armor occupations and to those from other units and occupations deploying to areas where they will require such equipment (from the beginning of training through any deployments): (1) personal protective equipment (2) organizational clothing and individual equipment (including for example tanker apparel, mechanics coveralls, tanker headsets, and ruck frames); and (3) the female urinary diverter;
  
- (2) Information about timing, including the date on which such equipment will be available;

- (3) What additional legislative and funding authorities are required to expedite procurement;
- (4) The results of any surveys and studies that have addressed the availability, serviceability, and effectiveness of personal protective equipment, organizational clothing and individual equipment, and the female urinary diverter device.