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**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF TEXAS**

**COMMITTEE ON THE RULES**

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENTS TO  
H.R. 2397, THE "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2014"**



**JULY 22, 2013**

First, I would like to thank Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Slaughter for holding today's hearing and affording me the opportunity to address the Rules Committee.

My amendments to H.R. 2397, "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014," are simple and are an important addition to this appropriations bill.

### **Amendment #244 -Civilian Contractors**

An Amendment that would prohibit the Department of Defense from using funds appropriated by the Act to enter into a new contract or renew the contract of any civilian contractor performing defense intelligence activities (including intelligence analysis) to support Federal Government activities if such contract would cause the number of civilian contractors for FY2014 to exceed 90 percent of the number of such civilian contractors for FY2013. The disclosure of leaked and highly sensitive classified information to the Washington Post and the Guardian raises several very important and disturbing issues. This amendment would prevent an increase in the number of civilian contractors engaged in defense intelligence activities. The amendment is intended to slow—but not halt the use of civilian contractors until Congress has more time to gather the facts on how reliant our nation is upon civilian contractors who have access to highly classified information. We need to also review the process established for determining the awarding of security clearances.

## **Amendment #245**

### **Breast Cancer and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

An Amendment that increases funding for the Defense Health Program's Research and Development account by \$10 million and reduce the Procurement Defense-Wide account by the same amount.

These funds will further research in the area of Breast Cancer and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Currently, there is no targeted treatment available for Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

The American Cancer Society calls this particular strain of breast cancer "an aggressive subtype associated with lower survival rates."

TNBC disproportionately impacts African American women, Hispanic/Latina women, and women with a "BRCA1" genetic mutation, which is prevalent in Jewish women.

Breast cancers with specific, targeted treatment methods, such as hormone and gene based strains, have higher survival rates than the triple negative subtype, highlighting the need for a targeted treatment.



As we look to PTSD, some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye, for these are wounds that should be properly treated. One of the best ways to increase access to treatment is to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the needs of men and women currently serving and those who have become veterans.

Post traumatic stress disorder, one of the most prevalent and devastating psychological wounds suffered by the brave men and women fighting in far off lands to defend the values and freedom we hold dear. A suicide bomber, an IED, or an insurgent can obliterate their close friend instantaneously and right in front of their face.

Yet, as American soldiers, they are trained to suppress the agonizing grief associated with those horrible experiences and are expected to continue on with the mission. And carry on they do, with courage and with patriotism.

#### **Amendment #247 - Deficit Reduction**

This amendment is a deficit reduction amendment decreasing Defense-Wide procurement funding by \$1 million and transferring the savings to deficit reduction (Title X).

This amendment assists our government to becoming fiscally responsible, which is necessary as we manage our working budget to aid and assist not only our government, but also our allies.

I urge all members of the Rules Committee to support the amendments. Thank you.