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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4606

COMMITTEES:
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June 5, 2026

The Honorable Anthony J. Tata
Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness
US Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Under Secretary Tata:

I write related to childcare assistance for military families, and in particular the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) program. Earlier this week I sat down with military families in Virginia, many of whom have just navigated the historic deployment of the USS *Gerald R. Ford* and the associated carrier strike group.

Childcare – affordability, availability, flexible options – was a notable topic during this conversation, as I heard from many spouses who do their best to navigate deployment while balancing family commitments at home. In Virginia, and in the Hampton Roads region where many of these deployed families are living, there are a range of local and community support organizations with resources to help navigate these challenges.

At the federal level, this is an issue that myself and many of my colleagues have worked to improve – whether that's driving additional funds toward the construction of military Child Development Centers, expanding eligibility for childcare access, and developing additional ways to access childcare such as the in-home childcare pilot program Child Care in Your Home (CCYH).

In recent months some military families experienced long delays in the amount of time it takes for their childcare fee assistance reimbursements to be processed, contributing to families' financial strain, and making navigating childcare availability that much more challenging. One of the cited reasons for the delays were staffing shortages, including among personnel processing those assistance claims.

In order to provide greater transparency for my constituents, evaluate the lingering challenges facing these fee assistance programs, and consider additional actions that the Department and Congress should take, please provide answers to the following questions, with data broken down by service branch, when available:

1. What is the current acceptance rate for applicants to the MCCYN and CCYH programs? Upon submitting an application, what is the average time for an applicant to receive a determination related to their status?
2. What is the current average time for a reimbursement to be processed and paid?
    a. How many claims (numerical, and as percentage of total) are currently pending for more than 14 days? More than 30 and 45 days?
3. What are the performance metrics and associated goals for reimbursements under these programs?
4. Since September of last year, how have staffing levels for MCCYN and CCYH changed?
    a. Reporting at the time indicated plans to bring on temporary personnel to help manage backlogs – are there still temporary personnel supporting these programs?
5. Over the past year, how has the number of providers in these programs changed?
    a. For any providers who have left the program, how many cited challenges associated with payments?
6. Beginning this month, management of the MCCYN program is transitioning to a different program administrator. Please provide the latest status on this transition, including timeline for families' phased transitions, and any challenges or disruptions that have been seen so far under this transition.
7. What tools and resources can Congress provide to materially streamline the application and disbursement timeline for the MCCYN and CCYH?

I appreciate ongoing focus on the challenges that military families face with affordability and availability of childcare, and I look forward to continuing to engage with you and the Department on these issues, on behalf of my constituents.

Sincerely,

Mark R Warner

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