

Sign On in Support for Deployability of Servicemembers with HIV, HBV, and HCV

Sending Office: Honorable Jackie Speier

Sent By: Benjamin.Broadmeadow@mail.house.gov

Outside support: NMAC

Dear Colleague,

As the Department of Defense seeks to maintain our military's readiness and lethality with [DOD Instruction 1332.45 "Retention Determination for Non-Deployable Service Members"](#), we must ensure that this policy does not indiscriminately keep deployable servicemembers from the fight.

Servicemembers living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and those with hepatitis B or C (HBV and HCV) can meet the standards to deploy, and the majority still do. The DoD Instruction now forces members out of the military if they remain in a non-deployable medical status for more than 12 months. Servicemembers with HIV, HBV, or HCV are often denied the opportunity to deploy by combatant commands, despite meeting all other standards. The new DoD policy will deny keep these servicemembers from deploying and deny them the ability to serve when our country needs them most.

I invite you to sign this letter petitioning the Department of the Defense to not simply employ this policy blindly. This policy can be implemented with reason and flexibility to ensure that every able servicemember can meet the mission and continue to serve.

If you have any questions, or would like to sign on to the letter, please contact Benjamin Broadmeadow at Benjamin.broadmeadow@mail.house.gov or 5-3531. Please see the full text of the letter below.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jackie Speier

Member of Congress

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Members of Congress with fiscal and oversight responsibility to our nation's military forces and the policies that affect our U.S. uniformed services personnel, we write to express our concerns over Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1332.45 [1], "Retention Determinations for Non-Deployable Service Members."

We applaud the intent of this policy, to maximize the lethality and readiness of our joint forces, by reinforcing that all service members are expected to be deployable. We are concerned with the unintended consequences of the implementation of the policy and how it may impact those who are limited in where they can deploy under certain Combatant Command policies. In an era where we must continue to use surgical precision to meet the goals and needs of our nation's defense, the policies that govern the management of Servicemembers should be flexible enough to do the same.

Two prime examples of this are those servicemembers living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and those living with chronic hepatitis B or C (HBV and HCV, respectively). The majority of these trained and skilled servicemembers meet the requisite standards to continue to serve the Nation as well as be eligible for limited deployment and can complete all mission-critical functions, yet depending on military service implementation of the policy, some may be denied those opportunities under this policy. With the advances in medical science, technology, and the ability to monitor and treat chronic conditions, we expect the Department of Defense to ensure its policies are aligned to accommodate those who are able and willing to serve.

We encourage you to ensure the intent of the policy is implemented consistently and fairly amongst the military services.

We appreciate your due consideration of our questions and concerns and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you.

[1] DoDI 1332.45 Retention Determinations for Non-Deployable Service Members," (July 30, 2018)

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