

An open letter to the House and Senate Armed Services Committee Members on behalf service members and their families.

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Written By [Chris McGhee](#)

To the Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees,

In the face of the silent battles fought by our servicemen and women, the delayed release of the study required by Section 599 of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act on suicides by military job code represents more than a procedural oversight—it signifies a neglect of our sacred duty to support and understand the struggles within our military community.

A poignant reminder of this issue was shared by one of my podcast listeners, a former servicemember, who recently lost a good friend and fellow aircraft maintainer. This tragic loss is a stark illustration of the urgent need for comprehensive data and understanding that the delayed study promises to provide.

This study is not merely statistical data; it is a beacon of hope for those suffering in silence. It offers a chance for their experiences to be acknowledged and addressed. The continued delay in its release not only undermines this hope but exacerbates the sense of invisibility and despair among our service members.

Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, you are vested with a sacred duty to execute oversight authority over the Department of Defense. By not employing your full authority to expedite the release of this study, you become complicit in the ongoing delay. Moreover, the responsibility for each service member's suicide, in the absence of action, partly rests on your shoulders.

We urge you to fulfill your oversight role with the urgency and dedication it demands. Let us honor our commitment to those who serve by ensuring their struggles are not only heard but acted upon with immediate and decisive measures.

Suicide prevention is our collective responsibility, and it starts with giving voice to the voiceless and ensuring that no service member feels abandoned. Let this letter serve as a call to action: to prioritize the well-being of our military personnel above all and to remember the real human lives behind the data awaiting release.

Sincerely,

Chris McGhee, MSgt (ret), USAF