



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Speaks in Support of the National Defense Authorization Act

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****HOST:**

** [Introduction not provided in transcript]

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hello everyone, Congressman Emmer here, and I want to fill you in on an important step made by the House of Representatives today. Just a few hours ago, my colleagues and I voted to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, also known as NDAA, which will ensure that our military is fully funded and prepared for the 2018 fiscal year. As you know, the number one role of the federal government is to ensure and uphold the safety of the American people and our homeland. This is actually why we have a federal government. During his campaign, President Trump vowed to make America safe again. On the campaign trail, candidates who now serve in Congress made this promise as well. In fact, last year the House promised to address military readiness and funding, and today with the passage of the NDAA bill, we are honoring that promise. The NDAA will rebuild our military by increasing the number of military personnel and ensuring that every one of our troops has all of the necessary resources to defend the nation and return home safely. Not only will the NDAA give our troops necessary equipment and resources, but it will give them the pay raise they deserve. The bill that passed the House not only increases funding for programs that support our missile defense capabilities to combat the dangers and threats our nation faces on a daily basis, but it also includes funding for projects in Minnesota, like an indoor small arms range for the Minnesota Air National Guard, and it takes important steps to bring parity to the benefits our Guard and Reserve Forces are afforded. This legislation will not just improve national security and help our active duty members, but it will assist our veterans as well. In fact, I'm proud that my proposal to properly recognize some of our important veterans, the Atomic Veterans Service Medal Act, is included in the NDAA. The Atomic Veterans Service Medal Act authorizes the award of military service medals to veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation during nuclear testing more than a half a century ago and grants them the proper recognition they and their families deserve. I'm proud of our work to rebuild our military, strengthen national security, as well as take care of our troops and veterans, and I look forward to continuing these efforts in the 115th Congress as we go forward. If there's anything you think we should be doing to better support our military or our veterans, please never hesitate to reach out. Thank you for listening, and have a fantastic weekend.

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For questions or corrections: mn06watch@gmail.com