

**STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR JIM INHOFE
RANKING MEMBER, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

To discuss the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act

INHOFE: The National Defense Authorization Act is the most important bill we pass every year—and especially the most important bill we pass for our troops. This year is no different.

Some may disagree with me, but let me point you to an old document not too many people read anymore, called the Constitution – it tells us what we’re supposed to be doing here: defending America.

This is a responsibility I do not take lightly and I know my colleagues share in my desire to get this bill passed. I am particularly eager to get this bill passed because, as you all know, it is my last NDAA to shepherd through the Senate, and there’s been a lot of them at this point.

Specifically, I want to take a moment to recognize my good friend, Jack Reed.

We are both Army veterans and understand that the most important thing we do all year is the NDAA, where we work to get the troops what they need to do their jobs and make sure they’re taken care of.

I don’t think there’s two closer friends than Jack Reed and myself here in the Senate and I am proud to have worked on my last defense bill alongside him.

This bill is truly a bipartisan, comprehensive product. We’ve already agreed to more than 70 bipartisan amendments in the manager’s package of amendments and those numbers don’t include the hundreds of provisions written by Members that are already in the bill.

It is easy to forget what brings us together around here, but the National Defense Authorization Act is a bill we must put aside our differences and pass every year.

We are about to enter the 62nd year of passing the NDAA with far-reaching, bipartisan support.

Senator Reed, the Armed Services Committee, and I – we worked hard to make this a bipartisan bill: in the base text, in the committee mark, and now with this manager’s package of amendments authored by many members of the Senate.

We are one step closer to getting this product to the finish line and making sure our military is provided for in the coming years.

I can’t think of one thing we have come together to pass for over 60 years straight other than the NDAA. It truly is remarkable.

I thank my colleagues for their contributions, I look forward to our continued debate on this important bill – the most important bill we’ll do all year.