



LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1300

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

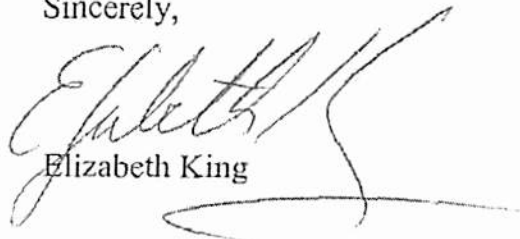
The Department of Defense supports S. 1214, the "Military Access to Reproductive Care and Health for Military Women Act." This bill would amend title 10, United States Code, regarding restrictions on the use of Department of Defense funds and facilities for abortions.

Current law prohibits the use of Department funds for abortions except where the life of the woman would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term. Inclusion of a rape and incest exception to the general prohibition on using appropriated funds to perform abortions under section 1093(a) of title 10 would make this provision consistent with other major abortion funding restrictions in Federal law.

The Department also supports this bill because it would restore a policy that would not prohibit Service members and military dependents, including nearly 50,000 Service women stationed overseas, from obtaining abortion services at Military Treatment Facilities using their private funds.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this letter for the consideration of the committee.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth King

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

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