



REPUBLIC OF PALAU
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SURANGEL S. WHIPPS, JR.

President

August 12, 2025
Serial No.: 25-3064

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
Senate of the United States of America
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker:

Thank you for our meeting in Washington -- and thank you again for supporting the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024. The law addressed Palau's needs, making our nations' association more equitable, which should enable it to endure.

Now, I am delighted that you will be visiting our islands and look forward to showing them to you on both water and land.

I am proud that Palau helps the United States preserve peace in the Pacific by letting it deny other nations access to a Texas-sized area adjacent to Asia, and locate radars, runways, missile tests, and a seaport here. I am also proud that so many of our young agree with recruiters to join the U.S. military. I am very disappointed, however, that the Department of Veterans Affairs is not providing healthcare in our islands and the two other nation states freely associated with the U.S. as intended by the Compacts Act. This is unfair, devalues their service, and prevents many from returning home. China has been very aggressive in trying to shift Palau's alliances. The VA's failure to fulfill such a high-profile and warranted promise of the Compact Act gives ammunition to those here who advocate moving towards it and denying U.S. military requests.

Attached is an amendment to the FY26 NDAA proposed by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Moran, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Boozman, Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Risch, and others to require the VA to implement the Compacts Act as Congress intended. I hope that you will seriously consider it.

Looking forward to hosting you during your visit, I am,

Sincerely,



Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau

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S.L.C.

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require the provision of certain services to veterans in the Freely Associated States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2296

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI)

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

2 **SEC. 1067. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES**

3 **TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED**

4 **STATES.**

5 (a) TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER PHARMACY

6 BENEFITS.—Section 1724(f)(1) of title 38, United States

7 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(C) Not later than one year after the date of the

9 This material is disturbed by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld on behalf of the
enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for
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1 (B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
3 House of Representatives.

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Republic of Palau. Additional Information is on file with the Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.**
