



Senator Bennet Priorities Secured in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)

Buckley Power Independence Project – \$68 million in military construction for Buckley Space Force Base’s power resiliency project which will support all of Colorado’s Space Force installations.

TRICARE Children’s Hospitals Reimbursements Briefing – The DoD is now required to brief the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on the effects of a recent DHA rule change decreasing TRICARE reimbursements to children's hospitals by 40%. The DoD must also provide a military contingency payment adjustments plan for assisting affected children’s hospitals.

Military Personnel Pay Increase - Junior enlisted service members (E-1 to E-4) will receive a 14.5% pay raise. All other service members will receive a 4.5% basic pay increase.

Colorado Defense and Aerospace Industry Investments - \$216.1 million for research, development, and deployment of national defense and aerospace technology. This funding will improve U.S. military readiness and capabilities in the space domain.

Rip and Replace Funding – \$3.08 billion for cellular companies to remove and replace sensitive telecommunications equipment. This funding will allow providers to fulfill the requirements set out in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019. Over 120 companies faced shortfalls that jeopardized cellular coverage for Americans across the country, including in Colorado.

Contraception Coverage Parity Under the TRICARE Program – This legislation provides coverage parity and eliminates copays for contraceptives for eligible TRICARE beneficiaries acquired through retail pharmacies and the national mail-order pharmacy.

Coordinating AUKUS Engagement with Japan – This amendment requires the DoD and State Department to evaluate Japan’s export control systems and engage relevant Japanese stakeholders on AUKUS-relevant issues. The DoD is required to brief Congress on those discussions and potential technical cooperation with Japan on Pillar II of AUKUS, which focuses on jointly developing advanced capabilities between Australia, the UK, and the U.S.

Dynamic Space Domain Awareness – This legislation highlights national security threats in the Space Domain and emphasizes the need for new, adaptive, and agile capabilities within the DoD to defend against new threats in space.

Small Business Federal Acquisitions Regulation (FAR) 50 Inflationary Payment Adjustment – The DoD is now required to submit payments offsetting the increased costs of manufacturing due to supply chain backlogs and inflation from COVID-19. These payments will help close funding gaps for small businesses in Colorado that have not recovered from these price increases.

Strategic Seaports Report Language – This legislation highlights the importance of the Strategic Seaport Program which supports U.S. military rapid deployment requirements. Insufficient U.S. dredging capacity has created a backlog in federal navigation maintenance work limiting seaport readiness.