

URGENT CALL FOR ACTION!

The NDAA pilot program for EKG screening of military recruits is in jeopardy! The White House Administration "strongly opposes" the pilot program for screening military recruits with electrocardiograms.

The Lion Heart Heroes Foundation worked hard to get electrocardiograms (EKGs) added to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 (H.R. 2670). It was passed by the House Armed Services Committee on June 21, 2023, and became Section 528 of the NDAA FY24.

Here's how you can help!

- **Call the White House at 202-456-1111** between 10am-3pm EST Monday through Thursday.
- **Write them** at the contact form, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/write-or-call/>.
- **Please share** with your friends and colleagues and ask them to help too!

Statement of Administration Policy on Section 528 of H.R. 2670--NDAA for FY24:

Pilot Program on Cardiac Screenings for Military Accessions. The Administration strongly opposes section 528, which would increase the cost of and time needed for screening individuals entering military service by establishing a pilot program to provide mandatory electrocardiograms during the accessions process. The requirement may restrict the ability to effectively screen and process applicants at Military Entrance Processing Stations and establishes reporting and screening requirements that are unnecessary for the target age of the recruiting population.

Talking Points

- Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the leading cause of non-traumatic death in military populations and specifically among recruits in training.
- An EKG is inexpensive. The benefit of saving a military life is immeasurable and saves hundreds of thousands of dollars!
- One in 300 youth has an undetected heart condition that puts them at risk for sudden cardiac arrest.
- An EKG can be completed in less than 5 minutes.
- EKGs can find over 80% of the hidden heart conditions that put recruits at risk for SCA.
- Current screening protocols at the Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) do not include EKGs for heart health, even though some heart conditions are disqualifying for military service.
- 23,000 youth suffer cardiac arrest annually in the United States.
- The addition of EKG screening proved effective at the military academies, where 7,626 midshipmen and cadets were screened. Twenty-six were found with heart conditions that put them at risk for SCA, most of which required treatment or monitoring. Two were disqualified from service because their conditions were so severe.

Our young military members deserve an EKG and the chance to prevent a life-altering or life-ending event.

Please express your opposition to the Statement of Administration Policy on Section 528 of H.R. 2670 -- NDAA for FY24. Share any personal connections that you have, such as Gold Star, Veteran, SCA Survivor, etc. Thank you.