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**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

ELIZABETH L. KING, STAFF DIRECTOR  
JOHN D. WASON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 13, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Austin,

We have concerns about assertions made in a memorandum from Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr. dated June 28, 2022, and entitled, “Ensuring Access to Essential Women’s Health Care Services for Service Members, Dependents, Beneficiaries, and Department of Defense Civilian Employees.”

This memo asserts that the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* “will have significant implications for our Service members, dependents, other beneficiaries of DoD health care services, and civilian employees, as well as the readiness of the Force.” There is no evidence presented in this memo to support the conclusion that the *Dobbs* decision will have “significant implications” for the “readiness of the Force.” Please provide written responses to the following questions:

1. What are the “significant implications” that the *Dobbs* decision will have for the “readiness of the Force”? Please be specific.
2. What data was used to support the conclusion that the *Dobbs* decision would have “significant implications” for the “readiness of the Force”? Please provide a copy of all data used to support this conclusion in your response.

In addition, the June 28 memo states that current policies and procedures are under review in light of the *Dobbs* ruling, and that “additional guidance” will be issued “as appropriate.”

3. What policies and procedures are currently under review by the Department of Defense following the *Dobbs* decision? Please be specific.

4. Do you commit to consulting with the House and Senate Armed Services Committees before issuing any “additional guidance” referenced in the June 28 memo?

We request that you provide the information requested above by July 20, 2022. Thank you in advance for your responsiveness.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator