

**CARL LEVIN AND HOWARD P. 'BUCK' MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015**

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Requirement for policies and standard checklist in procurement of services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 826) that would amend section 2330a of title 10, United States Code, by requiring the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to implement a standard checklist to be used for new contract approval for services or exercising an option under an existing contract for services. The checklist required would be modeled on the policy and checklist relating to services contract approval form (dated August 2012) established and in use by the Department of the Army. Finally, the provision would require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of the standard checklist for each of fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the provision.

We direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and the senior acquisition executive for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force, no later than March 30, 2015, to issue to the Defense agencies and the military services, respectively, policies implementing a standard checklist to be completed before the issuance of a solicitation for any new contract for services or exercising an option under an existing contract for services, including services provided under a contract for goods.

We recommend that the Under Secretary and the senior acquisition executives, to the extent practicable, model their policies and checklists on the policy and checklist relating to services contract approval currently used by the Department of the Army.

We also direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the Defense agencies' and military services' implementation of a standard checklist by January 30, 2016.