



# PRESS RELEASE

## House National Security Committee

### Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 23, 1997

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#### CONFEREES REACH AGREEMENT ON FY 98 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

*House National Security Chairman, Floyd D. Spence (R-SC), announced that House and Senate conferees reached an agreement on the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (H.R. 1119). Upon conclusion of the conference, Chairman Spence issued the following statement:*

“I am satisfied that we have successfully worked through the thousands of differences between the House and Senate defense authorization bills and produced a conference report that reflects Congress’ commitment to maintaining a strong national defense.

“Although the House and Senate bills going into this conference were markedly different, I am pleased that the conference report maintains much of the focus and emphasis of the bipartisan bill that passed overwhelmingly in the House last June. This bill attempts to address many of the personnel, quality of life and readiness issues that are increasingly commonplace news because they are increasingly commonplace problems. The bill also adds funding for housing and barracks, child care centers, a pay raise, and for a quality healthcare program and also includes a number of measures that will address both the symptoms and some of the underlying causes of mounting readiness problems.

“Finally, the conference report recognizes that the post-Cold War world will continue to pose challenges to U.S. national security interests that require a strong military. But it also acknowledges that resources are constrained in a balanced budget environment and attempts to prioritize our defense needs. It is the prioritization and balancing of national security priorities that will remain our most significant challenge in the years ahead.”

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*Note: The conference committee used the fiscal year 1998 defense spending recommendation contained in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget — \$268.2 billion in budget authority — as its funding level, which represents an increase of \$2.6 billion over the President’s budget request and a real decline of 1.3 percent relative to fiscal year 1997 spending. A summary of major provisions of the FY 97 National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report is available on the National Security Committee Homepage at [www.house.gov/nsc/](http://www.house.gov/nsc/).*