



April 28, 2022

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee Defense
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Calvert:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Defense Appropriations bill, I urge you to retain language that would prohibit DoD travel card funds from being used for gambling and adult entertainment. This language is identical to the language that was included in the FY22 spending bill.

I applaud the Committee's leadership and fiscal prudence last year that saved taxpayer money by prohibiting such abuse during FY22.

As such, I write to request that the following language be retained in the FY 2023 Department of Defense Appropriations Act:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this 24 Act may be used for Government Travel Charge Card expenses by military or civilian personnel of the Department of Defense for gaming, or for entertainment that includes topless or nude entertainers or participants, as prohibited by Department of Defense FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 3 and Department of Defense Instruction 1015.10 (enclosure 3, 14a and 14b).

On May 19, 2015, the DoD Inspector General (IG) issued a 48-page report entitled DoD Cardholders Used Their Government Travel Cards for Personal Use at Casinos and Adult Entertainment Establishments.

During the investigation documented by this report, the IG found that cardholders frequently used their official government cards to gamble at casinos and at adult entertainment establishments. Specifically, the IG found that from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, cardholders made 4,437 transactions totaling nearly a million dollars on their government-issued travel cards at casinos for personal use. During that same period, there were also 900 other government transactions at strip clubs.

As always, it should go without saying that spending taxpayer money in this fashion is inexcusable. Unfortunately, there seems to be a constant stream of a number of bad actors making poor decisions and making their colleagues look bad. Such actions should prompt Congress to act to prevent this abuse.

5,337 transactions squandering more than a million dollars gambling at casinos and at adult entertainment establishments in less than a year is a critical problem within the DoD travel card program.

Again, I ask that you maintain the rider that would prohibit funds from being used on DoD travel cards for gambling and adult entertainment. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lauren Boebert". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "L" and a prominent "B".

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress