



## **AOC Advocacy Is Significant Resource for Proposed EW Capabilities Enhancement Act**

The AOC is playing an important role in providing knowledge and expertise in ongoing Senate ([S. 2486](#)) and House ([H.R. 4851](#)) companion bills entitled “EW Capabilities Enhance Act.” The legislation was introduced by Sen. Mark Kirk (IL) and Reps. Jackie Walorski (IN-02) and Rick Larsen (WA-02), respectively. Efforts are being spearheaded by long-time AOC consultant, Ken Miller. From the outset, Ken conducted Senate outreach to offer assistance and communicate AOC position with staffs from various Senate offices, including: Gillibrand (NY), Moran (KS), Donnelly (IN), Portman (OH), Vitter (LA), Isakson (GA), Donnelly (IN), Gardner (NJ), Tester (MT), McCaskill (MO), and Rubio (FL), among others. In the House, Ken worked with Reps. Walorski and Larsen, co-chairs of the EW Working Group, to raise awareness and gather cosponsors. Additionally, AOC circulated [press releases endorsing both S. 2486 and H.R. 4851](#). Moreover, he helped develop an outreach strategy, including the submission of bill text for consideration in the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Key in this effort is an amendment offered by Rep. Larsen to authorize a pilot program for funds authorized and appropriated for sustainment of EW systems to be used for modernization of those systems. The amendment also builds on reporting requirement language to support the work of the EW Executive Committee EW EXCOM. The amendment was included in an en bloc amendment and passed by voice vote during the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) full committee mark-up on April 27. AOC attention now shifts to the Senate where the Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) is considering additional language from S. 2486 to include in its version of the NDAA. The Senate is expected to convene its mark-up during the week of May 16-20.

AOC President Dave Hime has also been engaged in the advocacy efforts. Ken organized and accompanied President Hime to Capitol Hill meetings on April 18-19. They met with lead representatives of the HASC and SASC, staff leads from the EW Working Group, and Defense Analysts in the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Discussions focused on the EW Capabilities Act (House and Senate versions) and efforts to strengthen EW investment, especially establishing innovative pathways through investment in EW Science and Technology (S&T).

Moving forward, Ken will continue to monitor and provide support to the HASC and SASC, and supporters of S. 2486 and H.R. 4851, as the NDAA moves through the legislative process. A final unified NDAA or Conference Report is not expected until the fall.

