SEC.___. MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF REGENTS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2113a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) the Director of the Defense Health Agency, who shall be an ex officio member;".

(b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by this section may not be construed to invalidate any action taken by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences or its Board of Regents prior to the effective date of this section.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislation text would amend existing law.]

Section–by-Section Analysis

This proposal would augment the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) Board of Regents membership with the Director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) as a voting, ex officio member. Presently, the DHA Director is not a member of the USUHS Board of Regents, only a non-voting advisor. This amendment would recognize the role and authority of the DHA Director at an equal level with the Service Surgeon Generals on the Board of Regents.

USUHS is a primary source of developing the next generation of military healthcare providers, educators, and scientists in the Military Health System (MHS) through its School of Medicine, Graduate School of Nursing, Postgraduate Dental College, and College of Allied Health Sciences. The primary venues for this education and research are in the military treatment facilities (MTFs). These MTFs are now coming under the administration, direction, and control of the DHA Director, rather than the Surgeons General of the military Services. It is paramount that USUHS and the DHA Director have a synergistic relationship where students, residents, and faculty receive clinical exposure. This education and research opportunity benefits not only the

students, residents, and faculty, but benefits the care received by the beneficiary. As a member of the USUHS Board of Regents, the DHA Director would be able to ensure this synergy between the University and the MTFs.

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following changes to section 2113a of title 10, United States Code:

§2113a. Board of Regents

(a) In General.—To assist the Secretary of Defense in an advisory capacity, there is a Board of Regents of the University.

(b) Membership.—The Board shall consist of—

(1) nine persons outstanding in the fields of health care, higher education administration, or public policy who shall be appointed from civilian life by the Secretary of Defense;

(2) the Secretary of Defense, or his designee, who shall be an ex officio member;

(3) the Director of the Defense Health Agency, who shall be an ex officio member;

~~(3)~~(4) the surgeons general of the uniformed services, who shall be ex officio members; and

~~(4)~~(5) the President of the University, who shall be a nonvoting ex officio member.

(c) Term of Office.—The term of office of each member of the Board (other than ex officio members) shall be six years except that—

(1) any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term; and

(2) any member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until his successor is appointed.

(d) Chairman.—One of the members of the Board (other than an ex officio member) shall be designated by the Secretary as Chairman. He shall be the presiding officer of the Board.

(e) Compensation.—Members of the Board (other than ex officio members) while attending conferences or meetings or while otherwise performing their duties as members shall be entitled to receive compensation at a rate to be fixed by the Secretary and shall also be entitled to receive an allowance for necessary travel expenses while so serving away from their place of residence.

(f) Meetings.—The Board shall meet at least once a quarter.