Women in the Service Coalition, Inc.
WiSCImil.org

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Date: October 27, 2026

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WiSCI Calls for Transparency After Pentagon Responds to Lawsuit Over Women in Ground Combat Review

Veterans' organization seeks records about the Pentagon's ongoing review and the evidence informing potential policy changes.

WASHINGTON, DC — The Women in the Service Coalition (WiSCI) is renewing its call for transparency following the Department of Defense's October 14, 2026, response to a federal lawsuit seeking records concerning the Pentagon's ongoing review of women serving in ground combat roles.

WiSCI's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeks documents concerning the review's authorization, research contracts, scope, and instructions to researchers. After the Pentagon denied expedited processing of the request, WiSCI sought relief in federal court. In its October 14 filing, the Department challenged the need for expedited processing and raised defenses concerning disclosure.

The review could have implications for women currently serving in ground combat positions and for the military's ability to retain qualified personnel in critical roles. WiSCI argues that the public deserves to understand how the review was initiated, what questions it is designed to answer, and what evidence may inform any future policy decision.

"We are not asking the Pentagon to predetermine the study's findings. We are asking for transparency about how the study was commissioned and what researchers were directed to examine. Women have served in these ground combat positions for nearly a decade. Any review that could influence their continued service will impact military readiness and national security. Such decisions deserve careful scrutiny, objective standards, and public accountability."

— Brenda S. "Sue" Fulton, Army veteran and Executive Director of WiSCI

WiSCI is seeking access to the underlying records so that service members, veterans, lawmakers, and the public can evaluate the review's process and any resulting recommendations. The lawsuit seeks the disclosure of responsive records; it does not ask the court to decide the review's conclusions.

More information about WiSCI's FOIA request: https://www.wiscimil.org/press-release-foia Media

inquiries should be directed to info@wiscimil.org.

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About WiSCI: The Women in the Service Coalition, Inc. (WiSCI) is an organization formed by women veterans concerned about the erasure of women's accomplishments in military service, threats to women's ability to serve in all roles for which they are qualified, cuts to initiatives designed to remove barriers to inclusion, and the consequent impact on military readiness and effectiveness.