

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

November 22, 2021

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro,

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of Hannah Cvancara's endeavor to join the United States Navy. Hannah suffered a childhood amputation, and due to the Navy's policy on non-service-connected amputations, she has been unable to join the Navy and live out her dream of serving her country as a Navy nurse. Hannah is an exceptional woman who never loses sight of her goals and accomplishes everything she sets her mind to. I know that she would be a great asset to the Navy, and I encourage you to take a special look at her request to join the United States Navy Nurse Corps.

I first met Hannah when she was selected as Miss Spokane in 2013, where she chose to make her pageant platform, "Honoring Their Sacrifice: Recognizing and Supporting our Disabled Veterans." She worked tirelessly on this platform, collaborating with me, members of the Washington State Legislature, and groups like the Wounded Warrior Project to bring attention to the experiences of disabled veterans, as well as individuals with disabilities all across the Spokane community. She's been an inspiration to people throughout Eastern Washington, especially young children with disabilities who see her as an example of how anyone, no matter their ability, can achieve their dreams.

Hannah has never let the circumstances of her childhood amputation hold her back from anything she's chosen to do in life. In high school and college, she participated in activities like volleyball, swim team, ballet, high jump, and more. At Eastern Washington University, she successfully completed the Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge. In her spare time, Hannah climbs cliffs, snowboards regularly, and surfs in the Pacific Ocean.

In 2019, Hannah graduated with her degree in nursing, following in her father's footsteps as a Navy flight surgeon. Since graduation, she has worked continuously as an orthopedic nurse serving patients in need of trauma, post-anesthesia, and critical care. With nurses in high demand in both the civilian sector and the military, and the demand only expected to grow in the coming decades, the Navy would be doing a great disservice to itself by not considering exceptional candidates like Ms. Cvancara.

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

In sum, Hannah's expertise, commitment to her goals, and ceaseless strength in the face of adversity make her a perfect candidate to join the U.S. Navy Nursing Corps. I ask that you give her request for a medical exemption full and fair consideration and provide Hannah with the opportunity to join recruit training. I know Hannah will show yet again that she can conquer any challenge put in front of her. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Matthew Cardenas ([matthew.cardenas@mail.house.gov](mailto:matthew.cardenas@mail.house.gov), 202-225-2006).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMorris Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress