



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Gontarz v. Hegseth

Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP)

Class Action

Frequently Asked Questions

August 2026

Disclaimer

This self-help guide provides general information only. It does not constitute legal advice. It also cannot substitute for advice from an attorney who knows the particulars of your case. Use the information in this guide at your own risk. We have made every effort to provide reliable, up-to-date information, but we do not guarantee its accuracy. The information in this guide is current as of August 2026.

© Copyright NVLSP 2026. These materials are the property of NVLSP and are made available at no charge. For parties interested in using or distributing these materials, please note that no alterations are permitted and proper attribution must be given to NVLSP.

Gontarz TAMP Class Action

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this case about?

This lawsuit was [filed](#) in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of Anthony Gontarz, and a proposed class of current and former members of the National Guard and Reserve Components of the United States Armed Forces. The Court never certified the class. The lawsuit challenged the Department of Defense's (DoD's) denial of Transitional Assistance Management Program ("TAMP") benefits to otherwise eligible Guard and Reserve members based on an internal administrative coding requirement. TAMP provides eligible servicemembers and their families with 180 days of transitional health care coverage after the servicemember leaves active duty. The complaint alleged that the DoD unlawfully conditioned TAMP eligibility on whether a National Guard or Reserve member's orders were coded in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System ("DEERS") as being "in support of a contingency operation." According to the complaint, that requirement does not appear in the governing statute and violated the Administrative Procedure Act.

How did DoD change its TAMP policy in response to the lawsuit?

On August 10, 2026, in response to the filing of the litigation, the DoD changed its TAMP eligibility policy and rescinded the prior DEERS coding requirement. The DoD's [memorandum](#) states that a servicemember "does not need to demonstrate that [their] service period was substantively connected in some way to a war, a contingency operation, or a national emergency." The memo further specifies that coding in DEERS will be "adjusted to implement this change to TAMP eligibility."

What relief does the new policy provide?

The revised policy provides two forms of relief:

- **Coverage going forward.** Otherwise eligible National Guard and Reserve members separating from qualifying active-duty service will no longer be denied TAMP because their service was not coded in DEERS as "in support of a contingency operation." Eligible members and their families may receive 180 days of TAMP coverage after the servicemember's qualifying active-duty service ends.
- **Retroactive relief.** National Guard and Reserve members denied TAMP under the prior policy on or after April 24, 2020, may request retroactive eligibility and reimbursement for eligible expenses incurred during the period in which they should have received TAMP coverage.

How can I seek retroactive reimbursement?

If you were denied TAMP on or after April 24, 2020, you may seek reimbursement for health insurance premiums and certain out-of-pocket health care expenses incurred by you or your eligible family members. To request review of your eligibility and seek reimbursement, email the Defense Health Agency at dha.san-diego.healthcare-ops.mbx.thp-eligibility-adj@health.mil. At this time, NVLSP cannot provide advice regarding individual eligibility or reimbursement requests. Please monitor nvlsp.org for further developments.

About the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)

The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) is an independent, nonprofit veterans service organization that has served active duty military personnel and veterans since 1981. NVLSP strives to ensure that our nation honors its commitment to its 18 million veterans and active duty personnel by ensuring they have the benefits they have earned through their service to our country. NVLSP has represented veterans in lawsuits that compelled enforcement of the law where the VA or other military services denied benefits to

veterans in violation of the law. NVLSP's success in these lawsuits has resulted in more than \$7.2 billion dollars being awarded in disability, death and medical benefits to hundreds of thousands of veterans and their survivors. NVLSP offers training for attorneys and other advocates; connects veterans and active duty personnel with pro bono legal help when seeking disability benefits; publishes the nation's definitive guide on veteran benefits; and represents and litigates for veterans and their families before the VA, military discharge review agencies and federal courts. For more information, go to nvlsp.org.