

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Moran,

On behalf of the United States Service members, veterans, family members, and survivors we represent, our Veterans and Military Service Organizations are proud to offer our strong support for the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act of 2022*, as amended. A motion to invoke cloture was filed for this measure on May 26, 2022, and we anticipate that it will be brought to the Senate floor for a vote in the near future.

Throughout our history, Service members have suffered exposures to dangerous toxic substances while performing their duties both in combat and in peacetime. Most recently, a generation of veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and surrounding areas experienced recurring and prolonged exposure to toxic fumes from burn pits and other environmental hazards. As a result, many of them have developed respiratory conditions, cancers, and other serious illnesses, and many have already died. Sadly, far too many continue to struggle to access health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) because they cannot prove their toxic injuries are connected to their service.

If enacted, this comprehensive legislation would finally correct this injustice by guaranteeing exposed veterans permanent access to VA care and establish a list of conditions that are presumed to be linked to exposures so that impacted veterans receive their full benefits. Additionally, this bill would provide justice for exposed Camp Lejeune veterans, expand long overdue Agent Orange presumptions, enhance VA research, training, and screening related to toxic exposures, and improve VA claims processing, workforce recruitment and retention, and infrastructure.

We commend you for your steadfast work to reach a bipartisan agreement on certain changes to the text of the bill as passed by the House. We note that these changes will ensure that VA is able to successfully implement all provisions of the bill without disrupting services or significantly impacting backlogs for veterans already in the system. Your bipartisan agreement recognizes that caring for veterans with toxic injuries must be viewed as a cost of war.

Messrs. Chairman and Ranking Member, due to your leadership, commitment, and inclusion of VSO feedback at every step of the process, the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act of 2022* is the most comprehensive, veteran-supported toxic exposure bill in the history of the U.S. Congress. We look forward to continuing to work with you to secure the passage of this landmark legislation and encourage every Senator to offer their support and vote "yes" to invoke cloture and "yes" on final passage.

Sincerely,

Air Force Sergeants Association  
AMVETS  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States  
Balanced Veterans Network  
Blinded Veterans Association  
Blue Star Families  
Burn Pits 360  
California Communities Against Toxics  
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS  
Disabled American Veterans  
Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
FealGood Foundation  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Green Beret Foundation  
Grunt Style Foundation  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Jewish War Veterans  
K9s For Warriors  
Marine Corps Reserve Association  
Military Chaplains Association  
Minority Veterans of America  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military-Veterans Advocacy  
Military Veterans of America  
Modern Military Association of America  
National Association of County Veterans Service Officers

National Military Family Association  
National Veterans Legal Services Program  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
ROA  
Service Women's Action Network  
Special Operations Association of America  
Student Veterans of America  
Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation  
The American Legion  
The Independence Fund  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
TREA  
United Soldiers and Sailors of America  
US Army Warrant Officers Association  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Veterans Prostate Cancer  
Veteran Warriors  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
We the Veterans  
Wounded Warrior Project  
Your Next Stage