

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the American service members and veterans we represent, the undersigned representatives of our respective Veterans and Military Service Organizations call on the House to expeditiously consider and pass into law the *Honoring Our PACT Act* (H.R. 3967).

Throughout our history, and most recently over the course of more than 20 years of war in the post-9/11 era, service members and veterans suffered prolonged exposure to dangerous toxic substances, such as burn pits that destroyed trash, medical and human waste, chemicals, and fuel, in and around the battlefields of Iraq, Afghanistan and other places. Of the hundreds of thousands of our members who have suffered these exposures, many have returned home sick (or would become ill), and many have also died of their injuries.

Collectively, we have spent years educating Congress, national leaders, and the public on the enormous scope of the injuries faced by our community. There have been small-scale measures to boost education, training, research, and outreach to begin to address the problem. Over the last several years, many of our organizations have worked together to assemble the components of comprehensive toxic exposure legislation that provides VA health care, a new process to determine future presumptive conditions, and provide overdue disability benefits to thousands of veterans from all wars and eras suffering from toxic exposures.

There have been a number of bills introduced in the House that address different aspects of the toxic exposures puzzle, however the *Honoring Our PACT Act* is the only bill that provides a truly comprehensive solution. Although many of us have supported some of these other burn pits and toxic exposure bills, none of them provides a complete and lasting solution for veterans who are or may become ill as a result of toxic exposures. Consequently, when the *Honoring Our PACT Act* is brought to the floor for consideration, if any such legislation is offered as an amendment or motion to restrict or substitute, rather than supplement, the underlying bill, we would urge all members to oppose such amendments or motions.

Our organizations call on the House to pass the *Honoring Our PACT Act* without further delay, to finally provide those who have laid their lives on the line for all Americans with the health care and benefits they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)  
Army Aviation Association of America  
Burn Pits 360  
California Communities Against Toxics  
Cease Fire Campaign  
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS  
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)  
Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)  
Environmental Working Group (EWG)  
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)  
Gold Star Wives of America  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Green Beret Foundation  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)  
Military Chaplains Association  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)  
Military-Veterans Advocacy  
Minority Veterans of America  
National Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
National Military Family Association (NMFA)  
National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)  
Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)  
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)  
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)  
Student Veterans of America (SVA)  
Task Force Dagger Foundation  
The American Legion  
The Enlisted Association (TREA)  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)  
United Soldiers and Sailors of America  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
Veteran Warriors  
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)  
Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness  
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)  
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)