

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the millions of veterans, service members, their families, and survivors that our organizations represent, we call on your support for the adoption of Senate Amendment 1972 into the Senate version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), S. 4049.

Tens of thousands of veterans are still suffering from the consequences of Agent Orange use in Vietnam. By including Senate Amendment 1972 in the NDAA, Congress will care and provide benefits for those with the serious illnesses of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism.

Each of these diseases meets the scientific threshold of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to be credibly linked to Agent Orange. The Senate and Congress can act now to add these conditions to the list of Agent Orange presumptive diseases.

We call on you to lead and pass Senate Amendment 1972 into law and end the waiting for many of our nation's ill veterans so they can receive disability benefits. There is more work to be done to care for those who are ill from toxic exposures, including adopting hypertension as a presumptive disease as linked by the National Academies, but with your leadership, tens of thousands of Vietnam War veterans will receive their benefits and justice. Thank you for your continued support of veterans, service members, their families, and survivors.

Respectfully,

See attached list of supporting organizations

CC: Members of the Senate

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Burn Pits 360
California Communities Against Toxics (CCAT)
Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
Reserve Officer Association (ROA)
The American Legion (TAL)
The Independence Fund
TREA: The Enlisted Association (TREA)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
Veteran Families for Exposure Awareness (VFEA)
Veteran Warriors
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
VetsFirst
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)