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July 20, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer Senate Majority Leader The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Senate Minority Leader

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

As advocates for a broad community of lung cancer patients, many of whom are veterans or in active service, we call on the Senate to expeditiously pass the House version of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022, without amendments that will further delay passage.

GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer has long raised the alarm about the cancer-causing effects of service member exposure to burn pits and other toxic chemicals. We have long advocated for more research on the effects of burn pit and other toxic exposure on our service members, as well as increased education for veterans, active-duty service members and the public at large about the availability of lung cancer screening that can find cancer early and provide patients with the best chance of survival.

In 2020, GO2 Foundation supported Senator Rubio and Senator Gillibrand's Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act (S. 952). In addition, GO2 Foundation endorses S.4393, The Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, which would have created sweeping mandates for the Department of Veterans Affairs to further research, track and care for eligible veterans.

Both the House and the Senate have passed the "Honoring Our PACT Act," which is comprehensive because it includes provisions of the TEAM Act and the War Fighters Act among and other provisions. If passed, the act will deliver health care and benefits to all exposed-present and future veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). For the first time in the nation's history, the act will cover a wide range of cancers and respiratory illnesses as presumptive conditions and streamline the process for veterans to obtain VA benefits for injuries from burn pits and other toxic exposures by removing the burden of proof from the veteran.

GO2 Foundation is a member of the Wounded Warriors TEAM Coalition that supports data gathering on this issue and as one of the <u>65 Veterans Service Endorsing Organizations</u>; we are calling on all Senators to vote in favor of Honoring our PACT Act.

We applaud the work of Senate Chairman Jon Tester and Ranking Member Jerry Moran, House Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Mike Bost. We also thank you for promising a floor vote on the bill and we encourage swift action so that the brave members of our military will not continue to struggle to get the care they need, as a result of their service to our country.

Please contact my staff member, Elridge Proctor, Senior Director, Government Affairs at Eproctor@go2foundation.org with any questions or for more information.

With sincere regards,

Laurie Fenton Ambrose Co-Founder, President & CEO

GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer

Empower Everyone. Ignore No One. go2foundation.org

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