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October 7, 2020

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
US Senate  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Attention: Bill Bode, Senior Policy Advisor**

Via Email: [bill\\_bode@tillis.senate.gov](mailto:bill_bode@tillis.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Tillis:

As Co-Founder, President & CEO of GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation for Lung Cancer; whose mission is transforming survivorship by saving, extending and improving the lives of those vulnerable, at risk and diagnosed with lung cancer, I am writing to express our strong support for S.4393, The Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, which creates sweeping mandates for the Department of Veterans Affairs to further research, track and care for eligible veterans who fall ill because of exposure to toxic substances during service.

Of specific concern to the GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation is the lung cancer risk among ground troops deployed during the Gulf Wars, whose exposures included asbestos, chromium, diesel exhaust, radon, crystalline silica, pesticides, pollutants and particulate matter from burn pits, oil well fires and the destruction of chemical weapons including sarin gas. While research focused on these veterans is urgently needed, given lung cancer's long latency period; efforts should also be made to increase screening before symptoms become evident as that is the only proven method to detect lung cancer at its earliest and most treatable stage.

During our November Lung Cancer Awareness Month, we would like to bring increased national awareness and strategic focus on ways to improve outcomes and quality of life of those impacted by lung cancer. We are joining with the Wounded Warriors TEAM Coalition that supports gathering data, raising awareness, promoting research, and drafting legislation

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on the impact of toxic exposures on those who have been made ill as the result of their military service. We will also work together with the many Veterans Service Organizations to reduce incidents of toxic exposures in the military and increase access to and the quality of care for those who have been made ill as the result of their military service.

With great excitement, we welcome the opportunity to work with you and the Department of Veterans Affairs in regards to the implementation of the TEAM Act; as this legislation aligns with our formal partnership established June 2020. GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation will now work directly with the Department of Veterans Affairs to advance lifesaving screening and care for our veterans who are at elevated risk and incidence for lung cancer than the civilian population by offering educational and technical assistance and by collaborating on ways to improve Veterans' access to high quality screening and care in communities where they live.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Please contact Elridge Proctor, Senior Director, Government Affairs at 202-669-5547 or email [Eproctor@go2foundation.org](mailto:Eproctor@go2foundation.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Fenton Ambrose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" being the most prominent.

Laurie Fenton Ambrose  
Co-Founder, President & CEO  
GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation for Lung Cancer

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