CHRISTINA SAPPEY, MEMBER 158TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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May 23, 2022



House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

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> COMMISSION LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Honorable Robert Casey Jr. United States Senate 393 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey United States Senate 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Casey and Toomey,

In our work in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, we are constantly grounded in the knowledge that so many Pennsylvanians choose to faithfully serve our nation in the armed forces. As their elected officials, it is vital that we pay special attention to the needs of veterans, as their selfless sacrifice has benefitted us all.

Following the terrorist attacks on 9/11, many brave men and women answered the call to defend our nation. In doing so, they put themselves in danger. Many found themselves overseas in combat or on remote bases where living conditions were unsanitary and dangerous. As Americans whose freedom is secure thanks to the sacrifice and hardship endured by these brave soldiers, we have a responsibility to care for veterans who, in the defense of liberty, suffered physical or emotional wounds and, in many cases, continue to suffer from the lasting effects of their injuries.

Roughly 3.5 million servicemembers who served out of the United States have been exposed to toxic inhalants from waste and garbage burn pits on military bases; such toxic exposure has led to lasting and severe health conditions. To ensure that these veterans get the health care they need and deserve, the United States House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 3967, the Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021, also known as the Honoring our PACT Act. This legislation, which was passed in the House in a bipartisan fashion, has been sent to the Senate, where we sincerely hope that you will be willing to support it with a "YES" vote.

Our veterans represent the pinnacle of public service in our communities, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are provided with the care they need and deserve. Please show your gratitude to our loyal veterans by supporting the Honoring our PACT Act in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Christina D. Sappey PA State Representative 158th Legislative District

Christine D. Suppey

CS/hg

MSmooth

Melissa Shusterman 157th Legislative district

Michael J. Driscoll

Michael Driscoll 173rd Legislative District

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Tim Briggs 149th Legislative District

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