



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & POLICY INITIATIVES

118TH
CONGRESS



Implementation of the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise To Address Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Act Of 2022 or Honoring Our PACT Act P.L. 117-168

Passage of the *PACT Act* of 2022 was a major step toward addressing the needs of our nation's veterans, we must continue to fight forward in our effort to right the harms caused by toxic exposure at home and abroad.

Understanding the Issue

The *PACT Act* marks one of the greatest expansions of veteran healthcare and benefits in our generation. Thanks to the tireless work and commitment of members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, other members of Congress, and veterans' advocates, veterans who have borne the burden of service and have suffered from the effects of toxic exposure now have a path forward to receive the critical care and compensation they justly deserve.

While passage of this legislation is an important victory for veterans, their families, and survivors, we now face the arduous work of making sure that the implementation of this new law is accomplished with congressional oversight, verifying accountability on the regulatory and statutory sides, in particular for those veterans experiencing homelessness, veterans older than 85 years-old, veterans experiencing financial hardship, and Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipients whose claims are to be fast-tracked by VA, as stipulated in the law. Mr. Chairman, VVA is requesting this Committee schedule an oversight hearing on the VA's progress and challenges in reaching out to these vulnerable populations, many of whom do not use the VA healthcare system.

Congress must ensure that the *PACT Act* is implemented properly and in a timely fashion, conducting routine oversight to prevent any abuses or errors that might arise without legislative supervision. To that end, Congress must also ensure that the Toxic Exposures Fund remains untouched, as the fund is critical for the delivery of healthcare and benefits for those veterans who have and will suffer from exposures to environmental hazards during their military service.

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