



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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Dear Representative:

We are writing to you as the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a union representing upwards of 90,000 professional employees in the federal, public, and private sector, to urge you to vote for the bipartisan “*Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*” (*Honoring Our PACT Act*), Senate Amendment to H.R. 3967. We also request that you reject any further amendments and pass the legislation that 84 Senators voted to pass last week.

For decades now, too many veterans who have illness and disabilities from toxic exposure have been wrongly denied care and benefits. The *Honoring Our PACT Act* is widely recognized by veterans and veteran service organizations as legislation that would correct a grave and ongoing error by providing overdue and necessary healthcare – including mental health services – and disability benefits to as many as 3.5 million veterans with service-connected exposure to toxins, burn pits, and other hazardous material.

The *Honoring Our PACT Act* establishes a presumption of service connection for 23 illnesses and disabilities resulting from airborne exposure, a presumption of exposure to radiation, expands presumption for Agent Orange exposure, streamlines access and eligibility to benefits for affected veterans, requires the VA to implement standardized training on presumption of airborne toxic exposure and conduct outreach for veterans and caregivers, and improves data collection and analysis of illnesses and treatment related to toxic exposure.

For IFPTE, veterans’ issues are our members’ issues. Many veterans who are IFPTE members are involved in the IFPTE Veterans Committee. Our membership includes veterans and reservists working in the federal government, including at the Department of Navy, Army Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Social Security Administration, DOJ, NASA, in the private sector at the Boeing Company, General Electric, Spirit AeroSystems, and in state and local governments in New Jersey, Northern California, and in so many other places. IFPTE households and our members’ families include veterans, active-duty service members, and reservists. This legislation is about fulfilling a commitment to Americans who have served and sacrificed for our nation, Americans who are a part of our communities, our families, and our union. The least we can do is provide necessary care and benefits to veterans and future veterans who may suffer from illnesses and injuries that result from their service.

Finally, we commend Members of Congress in both chambers for responding to President Biden's call to Congress during his State of the Union address for swift bipartisan action on this important legislation so that we "make sure veterans devastated by toxic exposures

in Iraq and Afghanistan finally get the benefits and the comprehensive health care that they deserve."

For all these reasons, we request the House pass the *Honoring Our PACT* Act, reject any weakening amendments, and send the legislation to the President's Desk so that our nation can ensure that veterans are provided the benefits, support, and the care they need. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at 202-239-4892 or [fkhan@ifpte.org](mailto:fkhan@ifpte.org).

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs  
IFPTE President



Gay Henson  
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

