

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

As we mark the second anniversary of the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (PACT Act), we are reaching out to request an update on the implementation of Section 801. This section mandates the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct an epidemiological study on the health trends of those who served at Fort McClellan between January 1, 1935, and May 20, 1999. This study is crucial for understanding and addressing the potential health impacts experienced by veterans who served at this facility.

Our districts are home to numerous veterans and their families who have been profoundly affected by their service at Fort McClellan. The reported health issues are concerning and warrant immediate and thorough attention. As representatives of these individuals, it is our responsibility to ensure they receive the support and care they rightfully deserve.

Given these significant concerns regarding the potential long-term health effects of exposures at Fort McClellan, it is imperative that the VA provides a timely and comprehensive update on the progress of this study. Specifically, we would like to know:

1. **Current Status:** What is the current status of the epidemiological study required by Section 801 of the PACT Act? Have the study's parameters, methodology, and timeline been established?
2. **Coordination Efforts:** How is the VA coordinating with relevant stakeholders, including veterans' organizations and health experts, to ensure the study's effectiveness?
3. **Preliminary Findings:** If any preliminary findings are available, could you provide an overview of the initial results and insights gathered thus far?

The health and well-being of our veterans remain a top priority and ensuring that this study is conducted efficiently and thoroughly is crucial. We look forward to receiving an update on the epidemiological study.

Thank you for your commitment to our nation's veterans and for your attention to this important issue.

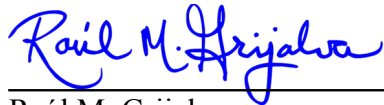
Sincerely,



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress