



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Veterans and Military Families
White House Office of Public Engagement
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**Statement by President Joe Biden on Bipartisan
Senate Passage of the PACT Act**

As part of the Unity Agenda that I laid out in my State of the Union address, I called on Congress to make sure that veterans and their families and caregivers impacted by toxic exposures finally get the benefits and comprehensive health care they earned and deserve. Today, the United States Senate answered that call by overwhelmingly passing the bipartisan *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022*—the largest single bill in American history to address our service members’ exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances.

This bill will provide expanded access to health care and disability benefits for veterans harmed by certain toxic exposures, whether in the jungles of Vietnam or the mountains of Afghanistan. It will also let the Department of Veterans Affairs move more quickly and comprehensively in the future to determine if illnesses are related to military service, and it will offer critical support to survivors who were harmed by exposures, including from water contamination at Camp LeJeune. Importantly, the bill includes the tools and resources to ensure that the VA can effectively implement it.

Above all, this legislation makes good on our sacred obligation to care for veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. I want to thank Chair Tester and Ranking Member Moran for their

remarkable work to pass the PACT Act, and I urge the House to swiftly pass this bill so I can sign it into law right away.

Key Points on PACT Act

- **The largest single bill** in American history to address our veterans' exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances.
- **Will deliver more timely access** for veterans, their families, and caregivers to receive benefits and services for veterans harmed by certain toxic exposures.
- **The Department of Veterans Affairs can act more nimbly** to add future presumptive conditions when the evidence warrants.
- **Improves training for clinical providers** who treat veterans with potential exposures.
- **Provides our veterans the level of service and care they deserve.**