



TOXIC EXPOSURES

in the American Military

October 19, 2021

The Honorable Neal Dunn
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dunn and Congresswoman Slotkin:

The Toxic Exposures in the American Military (TEAM) Coalition, a non-partisan consortium of more than 30 veterans and military service organizations and experts, writes in support of H.R. 4880, the *Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act*.

Prostate cancer is the number one cancer diagnosed in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Recent studies have reported over 500,000 Veterans are living with prostate cancer and receiving treatment within VHA. There are over 16,000 of those with metastatic disease and there are over 15,000 new diagnoses annually. The need to standardize treatment across VHA with the introduction of a comprehensive system wide Prostate Cancer Clinical Pathway is the right action to be implemented.

Studies have shown that prostate cancer develops more frequently in men exposed to Agent Orange and VA has established it is a presumptive condition thus qualifying exposed Veterans for full disability benefits. New data supports a link between prostate cancer and exposure to jet fuel (JP-8), cadmium, and aircraft component cleaning solvents. More research is needed on the relationship between prostate cancer and exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation and radiation sources like depleted uranium, and high power/high dose radar and communication jamming pods. The need to enhance research for this disease is clear as the number of diagnosed Veterans continues to rise.

We support your efforts to establish a Clinical Pathway for Prostate Cancer and to expand VHA research efforts related to screening, diagnosis, and treatment options. Thank you for your efforts to address Veterans prostate cancer awareness, standardization of diagnosis and treatment, expanded educational resources, and continued research. We strongly support H.R. 4880, the *Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act*.

Sincerely,

The TEAM Coalition

Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
America's Warrior Partnership (AWP)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Services (COAUSPHS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. (GSW)
Green Beret Foundation
HunterSeven Foundation
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans (JWV)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.
National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO)
National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)
Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Stronghold Freedom Foundation
The Independence Fund (TIF)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
TREA: The Enlisted Association
Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness, Inc.
Veterans Warriors
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)