



125 N. West Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2754

WWW.FRA.ORG  
800-FRA-1924  
703-683-1400  
Fax: 703-549-6610

November 5, 2019

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Fax: (202) 225-1238

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports your legislation, the “Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act” (H.R.4137). This bill provides for the eligibility of certain individuals exposed to burn pits for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, burn pits were used to dispose of waste, chemicals, and trash at or near American military bases. Many veterans are now suffering from rare cancers and pulmonary conditions linked to their burn pit exposure. The service member for whom the bill is named after, died as a direct result of their time in the military, deployed and exposure to toxic burn pits. These deaths are preventable and those who have been exposed deserve proper care and treatment.

The Association appreciates your dedication to veterans’ issues. The FRA point of contact is Brian Condon, Assistant Director of Veterans Programs, at [brianc@fra.org](mailto:brianc@fra.org).

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Slawinski  
National Executive Director

CJS:bc:dt