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October 29, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Fax: (202) 224-9673

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports the “Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act” (S.332). This bill would remove the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide.

The current law requires that these veterans prove that the symptoms of these diseases developed within a year of exposure in order to receive presumptive status of service connection from the VA. These veterans served in Vietnam and where exposed to the toxic herbicide, Agent Orange and it is unreasonable to ask these veterans to prove their exposure. They served like all other Vietnam veterans and where exposed to the same toxins and their illness that developed as a result of their service should be treated the same.

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.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Slawinski
National Executive Director

CJS:bc:dt