

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leaders Thune, Jeffries, and Schumer:

As negotiations come to a close for the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we write to respectfully urge the inclusion of The Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act (H.R. 1269 / S. 237) in the final conferenced package. This provision, which has already been unanimously approved by the United States Senate and included in the Senate version of the NDAA, has broad bipartisan support in both chambers. It is imperative that the final conference agreement incorporates this vital measure.

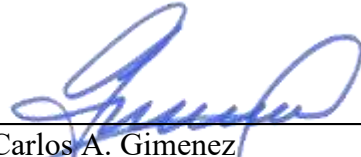
The Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act addresses a critical gap in survivor benefits for firefighters who risk their lives to protect our communities. As it stands, firefighters only qualify for benefits through the Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) program if their death can be definitively connected to a specific emergency incident. This connection is made easily for incidents including a building collapse, heart attack, or 9/11-related cancer. However, firefighters who succumb to job-related cancer and who did not respond to the September 11th Terror Attacks are wrongly denied these benefits because their cancer cannot be tied conclusively to a specific emergency incident. In fact, firefighters' chronic exposure to carcinogens in smoke, diesel exhaust, and other toxins throughout their careers drives their increased cancer risks.

H.R. 1269/S. 237 addresses this oversight in the PSOB program by recognizing firefighters' career-long carcinogenic exposures and removes the requirement to connect their cancer to a single, specific emergency response. We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to our nation's fallen heroes when we know job-related exposures are causing many to die from cancer at rates far higher than the general public.

Given that the Senate has already acted unanimously and that significant bipartisan support exists in the House, finalizing this provision in the FY26 NDAA would demonstrate a shared commitment to the wellbeing of firefighters nationwide. We respectfully request your leadership in ensuring that The Honoring our Fallen Heroes Act is retained in the final NDAA conference agreement and enacted into law.

Thank you for your continued support of those who protect our communities and our country. Our offices are eager to work with you on this important matter.

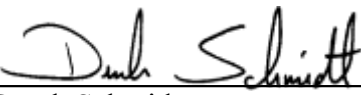
Sincerely,



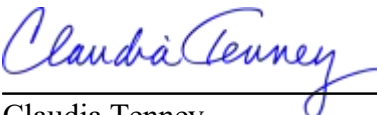
Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress




Derek Schmidt
Member of Congress



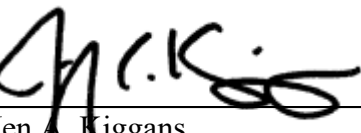
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress




Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



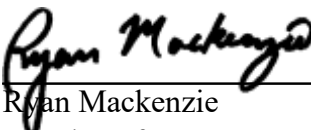
Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



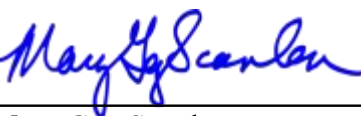
Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress




Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress




Ryan Mackenzie
Member of Congress



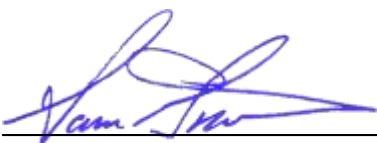
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



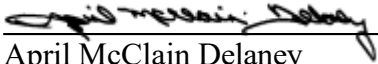
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress




Mike Flood
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



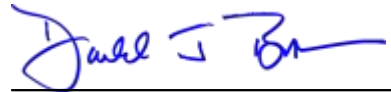
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



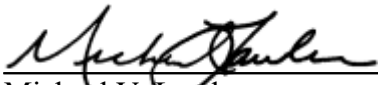
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



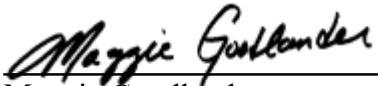
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



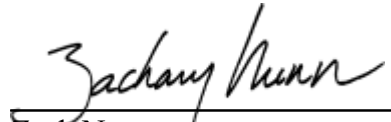
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



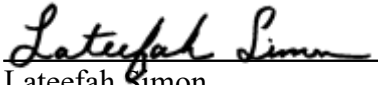
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



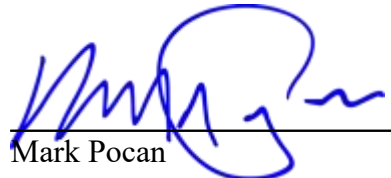
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress




James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



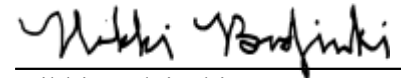
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress




Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



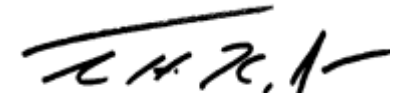
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



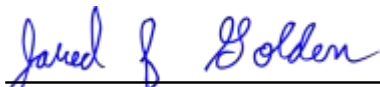
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress




Mike Bost
Member of Congress




Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress




Jared Golden
Member of Congress



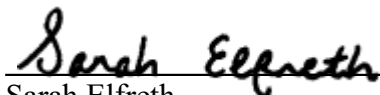
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



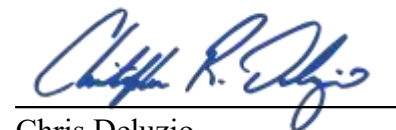
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



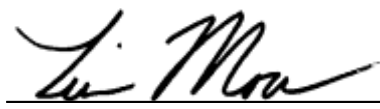
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



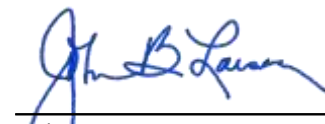
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Tim Moore
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress