



National Gulf War Resource Center

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September 22, 2009

Honorable Daniel Inouye
722 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510-1102

Dear Senator Inouye,

As the president of the National Gulf War Resource Center, the nation's first veteran's organization dealing solely with the problems of Gulf War veterans, I am writing to you about the defense appropriations bill and the congressionally directed medical research programs contained within it.

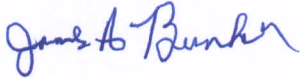
With up to one third of the veterans that had answered the call of this nation and laid their lives on the line in the Gulf War being sick, I ask that you help us to find treatment for these veterans. It has been almost 2 decades since the war started yet these veterans are still suffering from an illness that nobody quite understands. Everybody does agree that these veterans are ill, and some treatments need to be found. It has been nearly two decades since the start of the war and these veterans are still asking for their lives back. They do not want ~~to~~ compensation from the Department of Veterans Administration; they want a normal life, where they can work a full-time job and make 3 to 4 times their VA compensation payment.

I know both the House and the Senate have appropriated money for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program in the defense appropriations bill. However, unlike the house, the Senate allocated a lump sum amount for the Defense Department to use. I am writing to ask that in the conference committee that the Senate to agree with the House version of the bill. This will preserve appropriations for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program and the separate Gulf War illness research program that is so needed. We feel this is very important due to the length of time that we have been ill. To date, there have been no treatment studies, and thus it is now time for everybody to come together and work for treatment that we need.

The House conducted hearings on Gulf War illness, and I believe this is why the House has worded the Department of Defense appropriations bill dealing with congressionally mandated research programs in the way that they did. There was a lot of evidence shown that veterans are ill and that there has been not been any research into treatment protocols.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James A. Bunker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James A. bunker

President

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