

CHRISSY HOULAHAN
6TH DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

1218 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

815 WASHINGTON STREET
SUITE 2-48
READING, PA 19601

709 E. GAY STREET
SUITE 4
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

October 24, 2022

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Secretary McDonough,

The Honoring our PACT Act, more commonly known as the PACT Act, is the most significant and sweeping reform to address the healthcare and needs of our veterans impacted by exposure to toxic substances. As you work to finalize the VA's outreach plan, which I understand is due on December 1, 2022, I urge you to consider dedicating resources specifically to community-based and local outreach programs to educate veterans on expanded eligibility for care now provided under the PACT Act.

While I applaud the VA's efforts to keep its website up to date with relevant information for our veterans, many veterans rely on information from local and state resources to access and understand their eligibility for care and benefits. That is why it is imperative the VA consider the needs of veterans from a local and community-based perspective as you develop your outreach plan and educational resources on the reforms provided under the PACT Act. I also urge the VA to ensure the outreach plan clearly provides educational and outreach resources for facilities, clinics, and veteran centers in rural areas.

Our veterans already have enough to worry about -- weeding through complex legislation and policies to determine their eligibility to access care and benefits should not be an added burden. I was honored to work with my colleagues to pass the PACT Act and look forward to reviewing the VA's outreach plan to better understand how our veterans will be educated on these important reforms. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this request, consistent with applicable agency guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chrissy Houlahan".

CHRISSY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress