

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2017

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
U.S. Senate
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Armed Service
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Thornberry, and Ranking Member Smith,

As the Armed Services Committees finalize the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2018, we urge you to include the amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to declassify documents related to any known incident in which no fewer than 100 members of the Armed Forces were exposed to a toxic substance unless the documents would materially and immediately threaten the security of the United States.

Service members who participated in these tests need their records to establish service-connected conditions to determine care and benefits with Veterans Affairs, and they cannot provide adequate documents because the Department of Defense has not fully disclosed them. In some instances, service members were not even told they were subject to these tests.

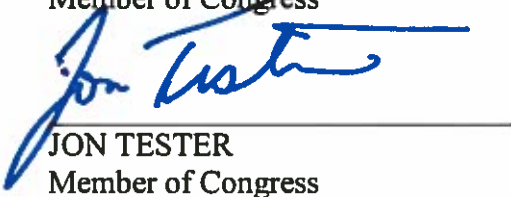
We must ensure that service members who participated in these tests are provided with treatment and other benefits if they have health problems or have developed a disability because of these tests. They cannot do so without the disclosure of this information. We cannot wait any longer. Many who served their country are now sick or have even died.

As you finalize the bill through your the respective committees, we urge you to support the this amendment that will help the brave people who participated in these tests. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



JON TESTER
Member of Congress



JERRY MORAN
Member of Congress



WALTER B. JONES JR.
Member of Congress