



# Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute

## Strengthening Care for Veterans and the Nation

The Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute (VHPI) strongly supports the immediate Senate passage of the [Honoring our PACT Act, S. 3373](#), the bi-partisan legislation designed to provide VA healthcare and disability benefits to as many as 3.5 million of our nation's seriously ill Veterans.

This bill was carefully designed over several years, with input provided to Congress by Veterans, families, VSOs, VA, and the White House. The bill's goal is to assist our ill Vietnam War, Gulf War, Afghanistan War, and Iraq War Veterans who were exposed to toxins during their military service. The toxins harming our Veterans include agent orange herbicides, burn pit smoke and particulates, pesticides, and other poisons, often while service members were deployed to war zones.

VHPI encourages Senators to put aside partisan political posturing and listen to our Veterans and families, [led by BurnPits360.org](#), who are currently peacefully gathered on the steps of the U.S. Senate since Thursday, July 28. Our bottom line to Congress: Pass the PACT Act as soon as possible. Veterans have already waited decades for this pragmatic solution provided by the PACT Act.

Once the PACT Act becomes law, we encourage President Biden and VA Secretary McDonough to meet with stakeholders so VA is fully prepared to accurately process disability claims and provide care to Veterans who urgently need VA assistance. Specifically, VA needs to [provide and expand medical treatments for Veterans exposed to toxins](#), and VA should improve on VA's unacceptably high claim denial rates for [Burn Pit claims](#) and [Gulf War illness claims](#).