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October 9, 2019

The Honorable Joe Courtney
United States House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Courtney:

On behalf of DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and our more than one million members, all of whom were injured or made ill during wartime service, I write to offer our support for H.R. 566, the Agent Orange Fairness Act, which will impact Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Title 38, United States Code, section 1116 requires three diseases linked to Agent Orange, chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy to have symptoms manifested to a compensable degree within one year of the date of the last exposure. These are the only presumptive diseases linked to Agent Orange that are required to be manifest within one year.

Consistent with DAV Resolution No. 023, which speaks directly to these diseases, DAV strongly supports H.R. 566, as it would remove the requirement of manifestation of symptoms to a compensable degree within one year of exposure for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy. The limitations placed on these diseases create unreasonable requirements on veterans to provide evidence of manifestations of symptoms. Veterans suffering from chronic illnesses and diseases should be concerned with their treatment and health, not trying to locate evidence of manifestation of symptoms from nearly 50 years ago. H.R. 566 would resolve the inequity created for these diseases.

Representative Courtney, thank you for taking the lead on this issue by introducing this important legislation and for your continued efforts to support our nation's veterans disabled during military service.

Sincerely,



JOY J. ILEM

National Legislative Director

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