

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 1, 2024

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

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

Dear Secretary Blinken and Secretary McDonough:

We write to collectively express our appreciation for your leadership and collaboration as you work to implement the Korean American Vietnam Allies Long Overdue for Relief (VALOR) Act (Public Law 118-20). This landmark legislation honors the significant contributions of Korean veterans who bravely served side-by-side with U.S. troops during the Vietnam War and have since become naturalized U.S. citizens. Their sacrifices have long been deserving of recognition, and through this law, we have taken a meaningful step towards rectifying past injustices and ensuring equitable treatment for these veterans.

Unlike their counterparts from certain other allied nations, these veterans have never had access to VA healthcare. The Korean American VALOR Act addresses this historical oversight by extending overdue recognition for this group of veterans whose service was vital to our nation's defense. This legislation not only acknowledges their sacrifices but also provides them with long-overdue opportunities for healthcare and benefits that are critical to their well-being.

As we acknowledge this important milestone, we are keenly aware of the urgent need to expedite the delivery of medical benefits to these deserving veterans. Many of these individuals are advanced in age and face pressing health challenges that require immediate attention. It is imperative that we accelerate the implementation process to ensure they receive the necessary care without delay.

Therefore, we respectfully request a comprehensive status update on the implementation of the medical benefits provision and reciprocal agreement outlined in the Korean American VALOR Act. Specifically, we seek clarity on the current progress and a detailed timeline for the full implementation of these crucial benefits. Transparency and urgency in this matter is essential to fulfilling our commitment to those who have selflessly served our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of utmost importance. We look forward to your prompt response and to continuing our collaboration to uphold our promises to our veterans.

Sincerely,



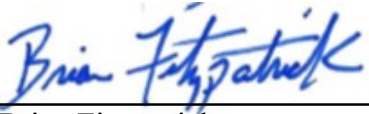
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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



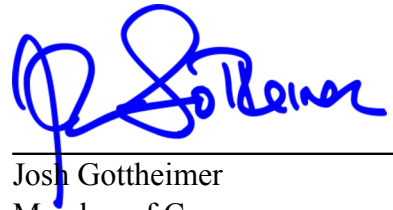
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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



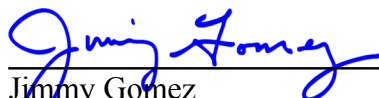
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Michelle Steel  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress