



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2803**

December 04, 2025

The Honorable Mike Bost
Chairman
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Takano
Ranking Member
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, and Members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to share my perspective on issues under the Committee's jurisdiction.

As you know, this committee was actually the first one I served on after being elected to Congress, honoring my father's service and the service of so many veterans in my district. Our men and women in uniform make countless sacrifices to keep our nation safe, so it's our duty to protect them from invisible enemies like toxic radiation exposure.

I represent southern Nevada, where 10 percent of our community has served our country in the armed forces. And unfortunately, hundreds of veterans who were stationed at the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) during 1972 to 2005 have been denied the benefits they rightfully earned. Over 20 years ago, Congress passed a bill that entitled nuclear weapons workers to receive free medical treatment and fair financial compensation for specific illnesses they contracted because of their exposure to radiation and toxic chemicals during nuclear weapons production and testing. However, certain DoD employees were doing work so secretive and so sensitive that even though they should be covered by the law, they aren't allowed to prove their work to receive their health care.

That's exactly why I helped introduce the bipartisan Presumption for Radiation or Toxin Exposure Coverage for Troops, or PROTECT, Act with Congressman Mark Amodei to correct that oversight, expanding similar VA benefits to veterans that were assigned to impacted areas of NTTR. This legislation offers them the potentially life-saving medical treatment and financial compensation they need and deserve. The bill will help save lives and bring justice to thousands of veterans who proudly served our country. The PROTECT Act would establish a presumption of exposure radiation and toxins for service members at NTTR between 1972 and 2005. This means that exposure is presumed to have occurred, and would simplify the process for veterans seeking benefits for illnesses linked to this specific exposure.

The PROTECT Act would help thousands of veterans, civilian DoD employees and their families to finally receive benefits, care, and justice that's decades overdue. This bill is not asking for new funding, and is simply about ensuring that veterans have access to benefits they are already legally entitled to.

Thank you again for providing this opportunity. I look forward to collaborating with the Committee to make life for Nevadans better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Susie" on the top line and "Lee" on the bottom line.

Susie Lee

Member of Congress