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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2018

Director Mick Mulvaney  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

I write to you today to urge the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in adding Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of service connected conditions presumed to be associated with Agent Orange exposure. Former Secretary Shulkin stated on March 22 that he provided his recommendations to OMB for these conditions on November 1, 2017. As each day passes without a ruling on these issues, veterans nationwide continue to suffer.

The inactivity regarding the decision on the presumptive status of Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism is troubling given the March 2016 release of *Veterans and Agent Orange, Update 2014* by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). In this report, the NAM found limited or suggestive evidence of an association between Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism and Parkinson's disease (PD), including Parkinsonism, and herbicide exposure. Bladder Cancer and Hypothyroidism were upgraded to a higher level of evidence suggesting an association, previously having been listed as having inadequate or insufficient evidence of an association between these conditions and herbicide exposure. These three conditions are causing undue hardship and suffering to our nation's veterans who were exposed to harmful chemicals while in service to this country.

Not including Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism as presumptive conditions for veterans who honorably served our country is leaving many veterans without the care that they need and deserve. I urge OMB to act as expeditiously as possible to resolve this issue and assist VA in including these conditions as presumed service connected. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
Ranking Member