Request for inclusion of Veterans living abroad in the CARES Act

Phone Script

Hello, I am xxx of Democrats Abroad Global Veterans and Military Families Caucus here in Paris/Greece/Marseille/Timbuktu

I will be brief because I know that your time is very precious. COVID-19 alone is a big time-consumer.

Tammy Duckworth recently wrote a letter signed by the Senators from Connecticut, Vermont, Ohio and Hawaii to the Secretary of the US Dept of Veterans Affairs drawing his attention to the very urgent need for covering COVID-19 costs for veterans living abroad regardless of whether they have a service-connected disability. and determining the level of payments from the CARES Act.

Senator Duckworth of Illinois spearheaded this request to Mr. Wilkie whose strong military background no doubt makes him especially sensitive to the need for a very urgent and considered response.

I’m calling today to ask you to co-sponsor Senator Duckworth’s effort and to use your good offices to also pressure the VA to include veterans abroad

Thank you and if you have any questions, please let us know.

 Here where I am …. (a brief word: it’s lunchtime, or we just had a rain storm or something else connected to where we are calling from).

\*\* If the call is to one of these states then say “your state” instead of giving the name

Email Script Request for inclusion of Veterans living abroad in the CARES Act

Dear Senator/Representative/Delegate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

My name is [your name] and I’m your constituent from [name of home state/home town/territory]. I’m writing on the topic of America’s military veterans living abroad and the extremely-dangerous COVID-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, it has recently come to my attention that Senator Duckworth has shown significant leadership on this important issue in pushing for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) to address veterans abroad as part of the CARES Act. Her jointly-signed letter can be viewed here: <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/download/200403_-letter-to-sec-wilkie-on-fmp-covid-19-preparedness>

As my elected official, I respectfully request that you also strongly support the issue of veterans living abroad and ensuring that they receive the necessary health care they need irrespective of any service-connected disability. If the VA does not swiftly address the concerns as outlined in Senator Duckworth’s letter, I then urge you to sponsor or cosponsor legislation which forces the VA to help cover the costs of COVID-19 treatment for veterans abroad.

Veterans living abroad pay U.S. taxes, vote regularly via absentee ballot, and often stay better informed of issues before Congress than their stateside counterparts. As you no doubt know, veterans living abroad remain entitled to the benefits and services they earned through their military service; it is essential for the VA to ensure that all veterans, of course including those living abroad, are treated equally.

As I myself am your constituent living abroad, I respectfully request your e-mailed response to this message to prevent any postal delays.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you and remain,

Most sincerely yours,

[your name and contact details]