

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 14, 2016

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2310 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2310 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We write regarding the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (NDAA). As conference negotiations are now in their final stages, we urge you to ensure that Section 582 of the House-passed NDAA – concerning the award of medals for acts of valor – is included in the final version of this legislation. Section 582 waives the statutory time limitation to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to servicemembers identified in the “Current Conflict Service Cross and Silver Star Awards Review,” as directed by the Secretary of Defense earlier this year.

Waiving the statute of limitations for the Medal of Honor is of particular importance to us following recent events. As you may know, the Secretary of Defense is currently considering the posthumous nomination of Air Force Sergeant John Chapman for the Medal of Honor. Sergeant Chapman’s nomination was recently endorsed by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. Raised in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, Sergeant Chapman courageously served and made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his fellow war fighters and our nation.

With the strong possibility that Sergeant Chapman’s nomination will be approved by the Administration, it is important that Section 582 remain in the final NDAA in order to authorize his posthumous upgrade from the Air Force Cross to the Medal of Honor. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
United States Senate

*Rosa L. DeLauro*

ROSA L. DELAURO  
Member of Congress

*Joe Courtney*

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

*Elizabeth H. Esty*

ELIZABETH H. ESTY  
Member of Congress

*John B. Larson*

JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress

*Jim Himes*

JIM HIMES  
Member of Congress

*Jeff Miller*

JEFF MILLER  
Member of Congress