

Senator Cruz Cosponsors IAVA-Backed Burn Pits Legislation

WASHINGTON, DC (August 23, 2018) – Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the leading voice of the Post-9/11 generation of veterans, is proud to announce that U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) has become a cosponsor of the *Burn Pits Accountability Act* (S. 3181/H.R. 5671), to improve the tracking and reporting of servicemembers' exposure to burn pits and airborne toxins during their deployments.

Senator Ted Cruz has served as the junior Senator from Texas since 2013. He currently serves on the powerful Committee on Armed Services, as well as the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

“Per our most recent IAVA Member Survey, 80% of IAVA members report being exposed to burn pits and 63% of those exposed report symptoms. I count myself among the 63%,” **said IAVA Chief Policy Officer, Melissa Bryant.** “According to the VA, about 3.5 million servicemembers and veterans are eligible for enrollment in the VA’s Burn Pit and Toxic Exposures Registry yet only 154,000 are enrolled. We want to thank Sen. Cruz in helping us by signing onto this important piece of legislation.”

The *Burn Pits Accountability Act*, sponsored by Reps. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) and Brian Mast (R-FL), now has 119 House cosponsors, and 5 in the Senate. The bill is among [IAVA’s Big Six priorities for 2018](#), including Suicide Prevention, Government Reform, #SheWhoBorneTheBattle, #DefendTheGIBill, and Medicinal Cannabis Use for Veterans.