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U.S. House of Representatives

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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

B-234 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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August 5, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 Speaker
 U.S. House of Representatives
 H-232, The Capitol
 Washington, DC 20215

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
 Republican Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 H-204, The Capitol
 Washington, DC 20215

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
 Majority Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 H-107, The Capitol
 Washington, DC 20215

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Leader McCarthy:

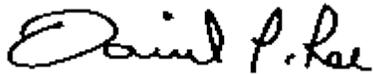
We write to you today to respectfully request that the text of our bill, H.R. 7111, as amended, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020, be included in the COVID-19 relief package that you are currently negotiating.

We know you agree that taking care of the brave men and women who have served in uniform during this national emergency and ensuring they are able to regain their footing in the post-COVID-19 economy is one of Congress' priorities. H.R. 7111, as amended, is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would assist the estimated 760,000 veterans who are currently unemployed as a result of COVID-19 get back to work. The centerpiece of the bill is a rapid retraining program that would give unemployed veterans access to training for in-demand occupations. This program would help qualified veterans who have already exhausted the education benefits they earned from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by providing them with up to one year of benefits similar to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The legislation also includes provisions that would support servicemembers transitioning to civilian life and veterans seeking meaningful employment in the technology sector.

This legislation is supported by 17 veteran and military service organizations as well as by Senators Jerry Moran and Jon Tester, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs who have introduced companion legislation. It was reported out of Committee last week by voice vote and incorporates technical assistance from VA.

The bill is named for Chief Petty Officer William “Bill” Mulder, a retired U.S. Navy SEAL who died by suicide following his service. We ask that, as you continue to consider ways to assist Americans during this crisis, you honor Chief Petty Officer Mulder’s memory by including this bill to aid unemployed veterans in the next COVID-19 relief package. Veterans represent the best of our country and we should do what we can to set them up for long term success.

Sincerely,



David P. Roe, M.D.
Ranking Member



Mike Levin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity



Gus Bilirakis
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity



Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mark Takano, Chairman, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs