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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 25, 2024

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Lt. Gen. John D. Lamontagne  
Commander  
Air Mobility Command  
Scott Air Force Base, IL 62225-5357

Dear General Lamontagne,

As you may know, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently proposed a rule that may greatly inconvenience servicemembers and their families deployed overseas.

As drafted, dogs entering or returning to the United States from rabies-free or low-risk countries must have a CDC dog import form, appear to be healthy, be at least 6 months old, and be microchipped.

Dogs entering from high-risk countries, where many servicemembers and their families are stationed, require a CDC dog import form, a U.S.-issued Rabies Vaccination form or a USDA-endorsed health certificate, appear to be healthy, be at least 6 months old, and be microchipped.

While I understand the rule is aimed at preventing the reintroduction of dog rabies into the United States, as a combat veteran and pet-owner, I am concerned about any hardships these families may encounter when returning home. No military family should have to ponder the possibility of leaving their beloved dog or their puppies behind.

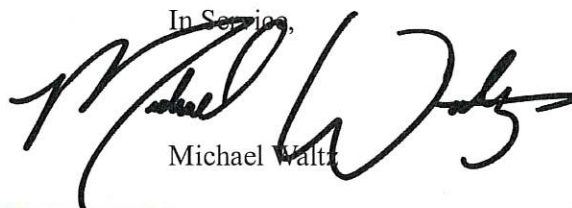
I am disturbed that the CDC's rule, which is scheduled to take effect on August 1<sup>st</sup>, has already caused unnecessary confusion with some airlines preventing dogs from boarding with their families on international flights back home. According to recent media reports, while some airlines may still transport these dogs by air freight, service families could see their costs balloon to over \$4,000.

I request that you please provide any information on how the CDC's rule is affecting Air Mobility Command's (AMC) contracted Patriot Express flights. What assurances can you provide servicemembers and their families that AMC's contracted airlines will not issue blanket bans on all dogs from boarding? Also, what outreach has AMC done with the CDC for clarification and application of the rule to best mitigate the negative impacts the rule may have on our military families?

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Their service and sacrifices for the preservation of our freedoms deserve the upmost care and consideration.

Thank you for your kind consideration and I look forward to your prompt response.

In Service,



Michael Waltz

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