

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2020

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Smith, and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry:

Thank you for your leadership as you work to conference the House and Senate-passed bills for the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (FY 2021 NDAA).

We write to urge you to retain Section 736, *Grant Program for Increased Cooperation on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Research Between the United States and Israel*, which was included in the House-passed FY 2020 NDAA. It is based on HR 5605, the *United States-Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act*, which we introduced earlier this year and currently enjoys 98 bipartisan cosponsors.

We applaud your bipartisan and bicameral commitment to help our veterans and servicemembers, along with their families, that suffer from these invisible scars of war. We believe that this language further enhances and advances these efforts.

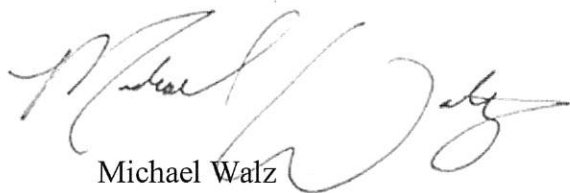
Israel, under constant attack from terrorist groups, has experienced similar issues with their veterans and civilian populations facing the symptoms of PTSD. Several leading Israeli hospitals, universities, and non-profits have dedicated their efforts to researching and treating PTSD.

Section 736 aims to leverage the collective research assets and experience of both of our countries to develop best-practices in research, diagnosing, and treating PTSD. The legislation establishes a grant program for American universities and private non-profit institutions that team-up with an Israeli counterpart with the same goals and purpose.

A better understanding of this disorder, along with treatment options, can help us better recognize, diagnose, and treat those suffering from traumatic incidents.

As you reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bills, we ask that you retain Section 736 in the final FY 2021 NDAA. Thank you for your attention to this request

Respectfully,



Michael Walz



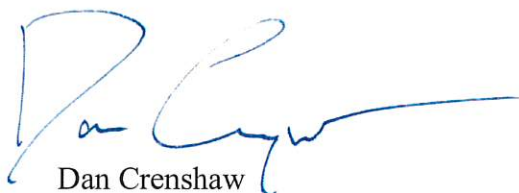
Elaine Luria



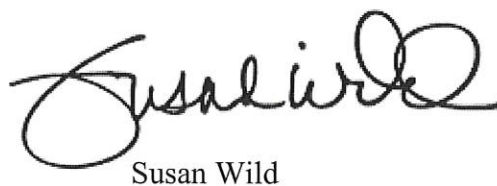
Lee Zeldin



Chrissy Houlahan



Dan Crenshaw



Susan Wild