



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee **Governor**
Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Samuel A. Azzinaro
Chair, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HR8487 - HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CAMP LEJEUNE JUSTICE ACT OF 2022

Dear Chair Azzinaro:

I respectfully submit this letter on behalf of the Office of Veterans Services in support of **House Resolution 8487**. From 1953 through 1987, individuals stationed at or residing on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, in North Carolina, were exposed to drinking water contaminated with hazardous chemicals, resulting in serious health consequences, including cancers, neurological disorders, and other life-altering illnesses. In response, the United States Congress enacted the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 as part of the PACT Act, creating a pathway for affected individuals and their families to seek compensation for injury and wrongful death.

Since its passage, hundreds of thousands of claims have been filed, revealing significant administrative and legal challenges. These include delays in processing, uncertainty surrounding standards, and other barriers that hinder timely resolution. Congress is now considering technical amendments in the form of the Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act of 2025 (H.R. 4145), which aim to streamline the claims process, clarify that claimants need only demonstrate general causation, limit attorney fees to 20–25 percent, and explicitly provide for jury trials.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Committee to support HR 8487, urging the United States Congress to take meaningful action to ensure that justice is delivered fairly and efficiently. Doing so will honor the intent of the original legislation and stand in support of Rhode Island's Veterans, service members, and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. J. Yarn", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kasim J. Yarn
Director of Veterans Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy