



May 1, 2017

The Honorable Martha McSally
U.S. House of Representatives
510 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. McSally:

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and our more than 425,000 members are pleased to offer our strong support to the bipartisan Protecting the Rights of Individuals Against Technological Exploitation (PRIVATE) Act (H.R. 2052).

The recent Marines United photo sharing scandal exposed a troubling culture within the military. The behavior demonstrated by these Marines and similar acts known to occur across the service branches should not be tolerated by leadership or be sidestepped through holes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). IAVA believes the improvements that the PRIVATE Act would make to the UCMJ by defining when non-consensual sharing of intimate media by “battle buddies” is a military criminal act are needed and a credit to your leadership.

To say the least, it is unfortunate that behavior by our comrades has forced action in Congress, but it's abundantly clear that commanders need greater ability to discipline within the UCMJ. We must empower our military leaders to foster the best possible command climate for all their troops. IAVA believes that the PRIVATE Act is a meaningful and significant first step to give commanders the tools to crack down on perpetrators of private photo sharing and enables them to set a tone that will prevent incidents like this from happening within their ranks.

These types of crimes are completely unacceptable, they undermine cohesion and trust between servicemembers, and it's IAVA's expectation that the changes you have put forth will receive sweeping bipartisan support and be rapidly enacted. Those who sacrifice on behalf of our nation every day should never have to do so on guard, looking over their shoulder, and weary of this type of friendly fire.

IAVA is a proven leader in fights to get women servicemembers and veterans the respect and recognition that they deserve. That's why we launched our #SheWhoBorneTheBattle campaign this spring and why women veterans are our top policy priority in the 115th Congress. We applaud your leadership and thoughtfulness in building a bipartisan coalition around your effort to stand up for women servicemembers, and ask that Congress pass the PRIVATE Act (H.R. 2052) into law with urgency. If you have any questions, please contact me at jaslow@iava.org or our Legislative Director, Tom Porter, at thomas@iava.org.

Respectfully,

Allison Jaslow
Executive Director
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America