



## Common Defense Civic Engagement

Senator Elizabeth Warren  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jeff Merkley  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20510

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Senator Warren and Senator Merkley,

It is with pride that we offer our enthusiastic support for the “Remove The Stain” Act on behalf of the 130,000 members of Common Defense, a national, grassroots organization of veterans and military families.

This important bill will protect the integrity of our nation’s highest award for combat valor, the Medal of Honor. Recipients of this award are among the greatest heroes of our history, and so it is tragic that past recipients have included U.S. soldiers who slaughtered hundreds of Lakota men, women, and children at the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890.

It is critical that Congress act to rescind these specific awards, because there should be no medals for massacres.

Native and indigenous people in this land have a long legacy of service in the United States military, and today disproportionately serve in uniform where they fight and sacrifice in war. Many members of Common Defense are from these communities or served alongside comrades-in-arms from them, and know firsthand the lasting impact of the Wounded Knee Massacre and other atrocities against the Native population.

For us, this bill is not only about correcting the historical record, it is about recognizing the service of countless veterans alive today, taking an important step towards healing for the Lakota descendants, and protecting the integrity of every subsequently awarded Medal of Honor.

We urge your colleagues to co-sponsor and vote in favor of the “Remove The Stain” Act.

Regards,  
Alexander McCoy  
Political Director – Common Defense