



## Military Order of the Purple Heart

Chartered By Congress

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June 18, 2007

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
SD-239  
Washington, DC 20510-1204

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of The Military Order of the Purple Heart, whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, I urge you to oppose H. R. 2640 as currently written.

For the first time the legislation, if enacted, would statutorily impose a lifetime gun ban on battle-scarred veterans.

In 1999, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) turned over 83,000 names of veterans to the FBI for inclusion in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

The crime these 83,000 veterans had committed? They had served in combat and returned to America with, allegedly, stressed-related symptoms. They were uniformly judged to be mentally incompetent and therefore prohibited from owning firearms. This classification rests on dubious legal grounds.

H. R. 2640 codifies that this list of names and future lists be part of the NICS system. The BILL then creates a mechanism to get off the list by proving to a psychiatrist that one should not be on the list. Veterans, therefore, will be forced to retain the services of costly medical personnel and attorneys in an effort to prove their innocence to the government.

Being placed on a list by Washington bureaucrats should not jeopardize the Constitutional liberties of our veterans. Our soldiers should not be forced to petition their own government that they served valiantly to have their rights restored at their own expense.

The government should remove the names of veterans already included in the criminal database and prohibit the VA from submitting other names in the future.

Unless and until such provisions are written into the BILL, MOPH remains opposed to H.R. 2640 and urges its defeat.

Respectfully,

Tom Poulter  
National Commander