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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you with an offer to once again work together, just as we have on other occasions, for the benefit of the American people.

I know you share with me the view that it is fundamentally wrong for people to assume for themselves a false identity or claim distinctions and honors they don't deserve. It is particularly appalling when fraudulent statements are made that misrepresent an individual's military service. We both respect the incredible service, sacrifice, courage and level of commitment demonstrated by our service members, which is why I ask you to join me in protecting their honor by punishing those who lie about military accomplishments.

Last month, the Supreme Court struck down the 2005 Stolen Valor law, which had made it illegal to lie about receiving certain military awards. The court argued that that law - because it was not limited to those seeking to profit from a fraudulent claim - placed unduly broad restrictions on Americans' freedom of speech.

I believe we can both protect freedom of speech and hold accountable those who lie about receiving military honors for personal gain. Last year, I introduced the Stolen Valor Act of 2011, S. 1728, which seeks to do just that. By restricting the bill's reach to only those persons who lie in order to seek a benefit, the bill safeguards our First Amendment rights while keeping intact the honor and valor of our courageous uniformed men and women, protecting the sanctity of our military service and awards.

In the wake of last month's Supreme Court decision, more than two dozen members of the United States Senate have now joined as co-sponsors of the new Stolen Valor Act (S. 1728). I write to you to request your public endorsement as well. Individuals who commit fraud by misrepresenting their military service with the intention of obtaining anything of value should be punished.

Justice Breyer eloquently wrote in the concurring Supreme Court opinion: "The Nation cannot fully honor those who have sacrificed so much for their country's honor unless those who claim to have received its military awards tell the truth." As our Commander in Chief, your support for this bill would help sustain its momentum. We must make sure that those who profit from lying about military service are held accountable for their actions.

Working together, I believe we can forever protect the legacy and the true valor of the deserving few.

Sincerely,



Scott Brown
United States Senator

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