

[Date]

The Honorable [insert full name]
United States Senate/House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S.692 – Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021

Dear Senator/Representative [insert last name]:

We write on behalf of the [name of organization/person]. [Add personal introduction of why this matters to you]

Today, we write to you with regard to the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act, Senate Bill 692. We ask that you sign on as a co-sponsor and encourage your colleagues to do so as well. SB 692 is an important non-partisan Bill, which will have no budgetary impact. As a law, it will honor women who served our country valiantly in WWI.

Our organization supports this bill because it will provide for the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the *Hello Girls*. The Medal will duly recognize their military service, devotion to duty, and their 60-year struggle for veterans' benefits and recognition as soldiers. Thus, this bipartisan bill will honor the heroism and patriotism of the first unit of female soldiers to fight as combatants in American History.

By way of further background, the Hello Girls were the first female soldiers to be deployed to a combat zone and were instrumental in the war effort in France throughout WWI. 223 women and 2 men trained and served with the unit, representing 33 states. The Hello Girls were skilled, professional switchboard operators proficient in both French and English. They risked everything for their country, and many stayed behind in Europe to help complete demobilization before returning home. When home, they were overlooked. It was not until the late 70s that they were finally recognized as veterans of the US Armed Forces. Their service laid the groundwork for the generations of women-veterans who have followed them into our nation's service and performed honorably in our nation's defense.

If you would like any further information about SB 692 or the saga of the Hello Girls, we would be happy to provide information, and you can contact us at [list contact info]. Thank you for reviewing this request.

Sincerely,

[name of organization/person]