

Kyle Mullen Naval Safety Enhancements

Excerpts of remarks of Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)

During debate on National Defense Authorization Act

In the U.S. House of Representatives 7/13/22

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the House today to adopt my amendment—the Kyle Mullen Naval Safety Enhancements—that directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct an appraisal of and provide recommended policies for improved medical care and oversight of individuals in the Navy engaged in high-stress training like the Navy SEALs to better ensure sailor safety and prevent related long-term injury, illness, and death.

In February of this year, my constituent Kyle Mullen passed away after completing the rigorous training of ‘Hell Week’ as a Navy SEAL candidate.

The autopsy report cited pneumonia and staph infection as the cause of death.

Kyle was an extraordinary talented and gifted young man—a true leader who selflessly enlisted in the Navy to serve our nation and protect our freedom.

Kyle was a world class athlete and was a basketball standout and Captain of both Manalapan High School and Yale University Football teams.

Kyle’s mother—Regina—a nurse told me in a heartbreaking conversation in her home that Kyle’s death could have been prevented had her son received timely medical attention.

Regina has many questions that demand answers.

Meanwhile, this grieving mom has made it clear and with great urgency and resolve that Congress and DOD must insist that medical care, aggressive monitoring, and oversight be provided now—without delay—to every Navy SEAL candidate during high-stress training.