

**JAMES R. BAIRD, PhD**  
4TH DISTRICT, INDIANA  
BAIRD.HOUSE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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The Honorable Theodore E. Deutch  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ethics  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ethics  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Deutch and Ranking Member Walorski:

I have been notified by the Sergeant at Arms that I am accused of failing to pass through the magnetometer as I proceeded to enter the Chamber of the House of Representatives on November 17, 2021. I adamantly refute the accusations made by the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) officer(s) who filed this report and I respectfully request that this be purged from my records.

I respect the USCP and the rules of this institution. November 17<sup>th</sup> was no exception. Since the House adopted new rules on January 21, 2021, regarding screening for members entering the House Chamber, I have complied with these rules every time, despite the alarm on the magnetometer serving as a constant reminder of the injuries and the multitude of shrapnel I received from the actions of a hostile enemy during combat in Vietnam while defending our Nation. I respectfully dispute the facts as stated by the USCP officer(s). The police report states that I bypassed the magnetometer and that I was advised of the rules and proceeded to bypass security anyway. This is not the case. I proceeded through the magnetometer followed by the usual wandling conducted by the officer directly in front of me as I exited the inward side of the magnetometer prior to entering the House Chamber, as I have always done.

The police report also states that the screening officer attempted to get my attention by placing his hand on my elbow and stated that I needed to go through security before entering. If the officer had placed his hand on my prosthetic arm, I would not have felt his touch nor become aware that he was trying to get my attention. Because I have difficulty hearing out of my left ear (tympanic membrane perforated by the blast from the rocket-propelled-grenade that injured my left arm and filled my body with shrapnel) and both members and officers were wearing facial coverings, it is also possible that I did not hear the officer if he was attempting to call out to me. If I had heard an officer attempting to stop me, or if I had felt an officer physically touching me, I would have stopped and consulted with the officer.

As previously stated, I respect the rules of this institution and the men and women who protect it and that is why I have always complied with these rules as I conduct my duties as a Member of Congress throughout the Capitol complex. Given the circumstances of this situation, I believe that a misunderstanding has taken place, and as a result, I do not believe it is fair to place this report in the Congressional Record or to impose a fine upon me.

I respectfully request an opportunity to appear in front of the Committee to make my appeal, so that the records may be appropriately purged and the fine of \$5,000 be waived. I am happy to answer any questions and can be reached at 202-225-5037.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

JAMES R. BAIRD  
Member of Congress