



Vietnam Veterans of America
Buckeye State Council
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Sponsor Testimony
Clifford Riley, President VVA
Senate Concurrent Resolution 11
House State Government Committee
May, 3 2016

Thank you Chairman Maag, Vice Chairman Hambley, Ranking Member Slesnick, and the members of the State and Local Government Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of SCR 11.

SCR 11 urges Congress to enact the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 to assist service members and their descendants who are affected by exposure to toxic chemicals during service in the Armed Forces.

The Toxic Exposure Research Act is the most important piece of legislation since the Agent Orange Act of 1991. It contains 4 directives aimed at covering the needs of veterans and their children now and into the future.

- 1) Establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the research on the diagnosis and treatment of the health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service In the Armed Forces.
- 2) Establish a board of advisors to oversee and assess the National Center in respect to the work of the National Center.
- 3) Directs the Secretary of Defense to declassify documents related to any known incident in which not less than one hundred members of the military were exposed to a toxic substance that resulted in at least one case of disability associated with that toxic substance.
- 4) Direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services to conduct a national outreach and education campaign directed at active duty troops, veterans and their family members, and public health care communities communicating information on incidents of exposure to various toxic agents, health conditions that can result from such exposure, and the potential long-term effects of such exposure and information for individuals eligible to participate in studies conducted by the National Center.

We urge your continued support and thank you for your time and consideration of this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clifford Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Clifford Riley, President

Vietnam Veterans of America - Buckeye State Council