

**As Reported by the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**S. C. R. No. 1**

**Senator Schaffer**

**Cosponsors: Senators Romanchuk, Yuko, Wilson, Brenner, Antonio, Craig**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Mark 1  
Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act. 2

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Throughout the state's and the nation's history, 3  
brave Ohioans have answered the call of duty and service, 4  
defending our freedoms as members of the United States Armed 5  
Forces; and 6

WHEREAS, As a result of the Manhattan Project, the United 7  
States conducted the Trinity nuclear test, the first detonation 8  
of a nuclear device, in New Mexico on July 16, 1945; and 9

WHEREAS, Over two hundred thousand American service 10  
members, including Ohioans, participated in above ground nuclear 11  
tests between 1945 and 1962, were part of the United States 12  
military occupation forces in or around Hiroshima and Nagasaki 13  
before 1946, or were held as a prisoner of war in or near 14  
Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and 15

WHEREAS, These atomic veterans may have been exposed to 16  
radiation as a result of their military service and, due to that 17  
exposure, may have developed cancer or other medical conditions; 18  
and 19

WHEREAS, Many atomic veterans were prevented by secrecy 20  
laws or oaths from seeking medical care or disability 21  
compensation from the United States Department of Veterans 22  
Affairs for conditions they may have developed as a result of 23  
radiation exposure; and 24

WHEREAS, In 1996, the United States Congress repealed the 25  
Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreements Act, freeing atomic 26  
veterans to describe their military involvement in nuclear 27  
testing in order to file for benefits from the United States 28  
Department of Veterans Affairs; and 29

WHEREAS, Atomic veterans may be eligible for free medical 30  
care from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and 31  
compensation in the form of a partial or full service-connected 32  
disability allowance, including potential payments to a 33  
surviving spouse or children; and 34

WHEREAS, The Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity 35  
Act, introduced in the 116th Congress as S. 555 and H.R. 1377, 36  
included veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak 37  
Atoll in the Marshall Islands between January 1, 1977, and 38  
December 31, 1980, as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of 39  
the Department of Veterans Affairs' presumption of service 40  
connection for specified cancers; and 41

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Veterans Services provides 42  
free assistance to Ohio veterans and their dependents in 43  
developing and submitting disability compensation claims to the 44  
United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and 45

WHEREAS, The National Association of Atomic Veterans was 46  
formed in 1979 to help atomic veterans obtain medical care and 47  
assistance; and 48

WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper that atomic 49  
veterans be recognized for their service and sacrifice to the 50

nation; now therefore be it 51

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 52  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the United States Congress 53  
to enact the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act; 54  
and be it further 55

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 56  
authenticated copy of this resolution to the Speaker and Clerk 57  
of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro 58  
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, and the 59  
National Association of Atomic Veterans so that members of 60  
Congress, the organization, and other atomic veterans and their 61  
families may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of 62  
the State of Ohio in this matter. 63