

February 16 2021

David L. England
97 Meadow Dr
Pickerington Ohio 43147

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
Ohio State Senate
Re: SCR 1

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members
Of the Veterans and Public Safety Committee Thank you for accepting my written
proponent testimony on Senate Resolution 1.

I am an Atomic Veteran. I served in the United States Air Force from 1960 to 1964 and
was assigned to the 6th Weather Squadron (mbl) at Tinker AFB, Midwest City,
Oklahoma. In February 1962 I along with other squadron mobile personnel were assigned
to Joint Task Force Eight to participate in Operation Dominic on Christmas Island . Just
south of Christmas Island 24 airdrops from a B-52 took place, five more in the open
ocean near Johnston Island and five high altitude bursts lofted by rockets from Johnston.
The Navy also conducted two nuclear tests in the open ocean. We worked long and hard
hours to provide accurate weather data that was vital to conduct nuclear tests. The only
recognition or appreciation we received for putting our lives in harms way was a thank
you letter and a certificate for participating. I give my information for background to
what and why I feel that this resolution should pass.

The VA has denied health benefits to clean up veterans like the vets who performed
cleanup operations for Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. I know that Agent Orange
has now been recognized for coverage. The question is why are Atomic cleanup vets not
also provided the same coverage. That is why we are asking the States to urge Congress
to enact the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act. Congressman Takai
passed away in 2016 and every year the act is introduced only to die. This legislation adds
to the list of Atomic Veterans included for Title 38 presumed diseases and the 1970's
cleanup veterans to be entitled to the same benefits. Only about 13 diseases have been
recognized for radiation exposed veterans (of which I am one). This list should be
expanded and include certain skin cancers and bone diseases. Most film badges were
unreliable or defective because of adverse weather conditions and age.

It is time for Congress and the VA to do the right thing on treatment of the Atomic
Veteran and those that did the dirty harmful cleanups with little or no protection. There
are myriad health issues that plague many atomic veterans not only about their health
issues but also financial disasters and huge medical bills. It is time for the Atomic
Veteran to be recognized and helped by their country for putting their lives on the line.
For many it is too late ! One of the solemn duties of our country is to take care of the

men and women who serve and have served in our armed forces. A big part of that is ensuring they get the health care they need during and after their service.

I urge you to vote in the affirmative for SCR1.

Thank you ,
David L. England