As Introduced

132nd General Assembly Regular Session 2017-2018

H. C. R. No. 21

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Representative Schaffer

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF

To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the

Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act.

OHIO (THE SENATE 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

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WHEREAS, In 1996, the United States Congress repealed the	25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 (S. 283) includes veterans who participated in the cleanup	36
of Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands between January 1,	37
1977, and December 31, 1980, as radiation-exposed veterans for	38
purposes of the Department of Veterans Affairs' presumption of	39
service connection for specified cancers; and	40
WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Veterans Services provides	41
free assistance to Ohio veterans and their dependents in	42
developing and submitting disability compensation claims to the	43
United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and	44
WHEREAS, The National Association of Atomic Veterans was	45
formed in 1979 to help atomic veterans obtain medical care and	46
assistance; and	47
WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper that atomic	48
veterans be recognized for their service and sacrifice to the	49
nation; now therefore be it	50
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General	51

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Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the United States Congress	52
to enact the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act;	53
and be it further	54
RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives	55
transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the	56
Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives,	57
the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States	58
Senate, and the National Association of Atomic Veterans so that	59
members of Congress, the organization, and other atomic veterans	60
and their families may be apprised of the sense of the General	61
Assembly of the State of Ohio in this matter.	62