

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

S. C. R. No. 5

Senator Schaffer

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the 1
Mark 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WHEREAS, In 1996, the United States Congress repealed the 25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 (S. 555 and H.R. 1377) includes veterans who participated in 36
the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands between 37
January 1, 1977, and December 31, 1980, as radiation-exposed 38
veterans for purposes of the Department of Veterans Affairs' 39
presumption of 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 133rd General 51

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 Senate transmit a duly 55
authenticated copy of this resolution to the Speaker and Clerk 56
of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro 57
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, and the 58
National Association of Atomic Veterans so that members of 59
Congress, the organization, and other atomic veterans and their 60
families may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of 61
the State of Ohio in this matter. 62