



National Military and Veterans Alliance

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May 27, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Chairman
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Corrine Brown
Ranking Member
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Miller and Isakson and Ranking Member Brown:

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military and veteran service organizations, fully supports H.R. 1769 and S. 901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, and we urge you and the other members of your distinguished committees to expeditiously approve this significant and important legislation. We ask that you and the members of your respective committees consider not only signing on as co-sponsors of these bills, but sending a "Dear Colleague" letter to others in your respective bodies to endorse them as well. We ask as well that, after the requisite hearings, you work with leadership to bring these bills up for a vote in your respective houses.

Both S. 901 and H.R. 1769 are bipartisan. They also are bicameral. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Dick Blumenthal of Connecticut are the original co-sponsors in the Senate. Representatives Dan Benishek (MI-1) and Mike Honda (CA-17) authored H.R. 1769 in the House.

The Toxic Exposure Research Act will establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a National Center for research into the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to their exposure; and will also establish an advisory board for the National Center.

The use of toxic agents – dioxin-laced Agent Orange in Southeast Asia; depleted uranium in the Persian Gulf – and the contamination of upwards of 100,000 troops from a plume that wafted over them during the Gulf War have had unforeseen consequences. The children, and grandchildren, of men and women who while serving our nation have been exposed to toxic agents, may very well have been harmed. Health conditions unseen in their families before appear in these offspring.

Veterans have questions; we don't have answers. What we need is fair, unbiased research that will provide at least some of the answers. We hope you will agree that this is an issue that affects many of the very best of those who have donned the uniform and answered our country's call.

These members of NMVA ask that you recognize the need for this legislation and give just consideration to S. 901 and H.R. 1769.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of veterans and our families.

Sincerely,

Member Organizations, National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA)

Armed Forces Marketing Council	National Association for Uniformed Services
American Logistics Association	National Defense Committee
American Military Retirees Association	Society of Military Widows
American Military Society	The Military Order of Foreign Wars
Army Navy Union	The Military Order of the Purple Heart
Gold Star Wives	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
Korean War Veterans Foundation	Vietnam Veterans of America