

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PLOCHER.

0062H.011

WHEREAS, millions of veterans have proudly served in our country's Armed Forces over the years; and

WHEREAS, during their service, many of our veterans have come into contact with various toxic chemicals, including Agent Orange and other dioxincontaminated herbicides during the Vietnam War, various neurotoxins during the Gulf War, and chemical weapons and burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan during Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn; and

WHEREAS, this exposure has been linked to certain diseases which may affect both the veterans who were exposed and their progeny; and

WHEREAS, there are still yet unexplained service-connected ailments and undetected residual medical conditions, including potential congenital malformations resulting from exposure to toxic chemicals, the extent, composition, and effects of which we do not yet understand; and

WHEREAS, the pain, financial burden, and emotional turmoil that these medical ailments may cause are serious and worth addressing, particularly in light of the sacrifice that members of the Armed Forces made that led to such exposure; and

WHEREAS, the Toxic Exposure Research Act has been introduced in Congress to create a national center within the Department of Veterans Affairs to research treatment and diagnosis of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxins during their military service; and

WHEREAS, this measure would also authorize the Department of Defense to declassify certain incidents of exposure by service members to toxic substances, create a database of

29 congenital anomalies, and devise a national outreach campaign on the potential long-term health
30 effects of exposure to toxic substances on service members and their descendants; and

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32 WHEREAS, such a measure would have significant importance and potential impact on
33 veterans living in Missouri and their children:

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35 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of
36 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
37 concurring therein, hereby urge Congress and the President of the United States to enact the
38 Toxic Exposure Research Act; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
41 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
42 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate,
43 the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and each member of the
44 Missouri Congressional delegation.

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