

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3052

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance for individuals affected by exposure to Agent Orange, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2025

Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. SIMON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. MCBRIDE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance for individuals affected by exposure to Agent Orange, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Agent Orange Relief
5 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:

4 (1) From 1961 to 1971, approximately
5 19,000,000 gallons of 15 different herbicides were
6 sprayed over the southern region of Vietnam by the
7 United States military.

8 (2) The herbicides included 13,000,000 gallons
9 of Agent Orange, 4,500,000 gallons of Agent White,
10 1,000,000 gallons of Agent Blue, 420,000 gallons of
11 Agent Purple, and relatively smaller quantities of
12 the other herbicides. Many of the herbicides, includ-
13 ing Agents Orange, Purple, Green, Pink, Dinoxol,
14 and Trinoxol, contained the toxic contaminant dioxin
15 (TCDD). Agent Blue contained high levels of ar-
16 senic. The 15 herbicides, including the contaminant
17 dioxin, are usually collectively referred to as Agent
18 Orange.

19 (3) Between 1961 and 1971, nearly 20,000
20 spraying missions were carried out in an area of
21 about 1,700,000 hectares. This represented about 10
22 percent of South Vietnam and portions of Laos and
23 Cambodia. These amounts only account for the
24 United States Air Force Operation Ranch Hand
25 spraying and do not include the widespread use of
26 Agent Orange by the Army Chemical Corps, Central

1 Intelligence Agency, and South Vietnamese Govern-
2 ment.

3 (4) Studies have found that between 2,100,000
4 and 4,800,000 Vietnamese, Lao, and Cambodian
5 people and tens of thousands of Americans were ex-
6 posed to Agent Orange during the spraying oper-
7 ations. Many other Vietnamese people were or con-
8 tinue to be exposed to Agent Orange through con-
9 tact with the environment and food that was con-
10 taminated. Many offspring of those who were ex-
11 posed have birth defects, developmental disabilities,
12 and other diseases.

13 (5) Agent Orange exposure continues to nega-
14 tively affect the lives of veterans of the United
15 States Armed Forces, Vietnamese people, Viet-
16 nameese Americans, and their children. The lives of
17 many victims are cut short, and others live with dis-
18 ease, disabilities, and pain, which are often un-
19 treated or unrecognized.

20 (6) The Department of Veterans Affairs recog-
21 nizes 19 illnesses and diseases in United States Viet-
22 nam war veterans, including AL amyloidosis, blad-
23 der cancer, chronic B- cell leukemia, chloracne, dia-
24 betes mellitus type 2, high blood pressure (hyper-
25 tension), Hodgkin's disease, hypothyroidism,

1 ischemic heart disease, monoclonal gammopathy of
2 undetermined significance (MGUS), multiple
3 myeloma, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Parkinson's
4 disease, Parkinsonism, acute and sub-acute periph-
5 eral neuropathy, porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate
6 cancer, respiratory cancers, and soft-tissue sarcomas
7 associated with the spraying and use of Agent Or-
8 ange by the United States Armed Forces during the
9 Vietnam era.

10 (7) No similar recognition has been given to af-
11 fected Vietnamese or Vietnamese Americans.

12 (8) The Department of Veterans Affairs pro-
13 vides compensation for many severe birth defects
14 among the children of United States women veterans
15 who served in Vietnam. The list of birth defects cov-
16 ered includes, but is not limited to, achondroplasia,
17 cleft lip, cleft palate, congenital heart disease, con-
18 genital talipes equinovarus (clubfoot), esophageal
19 and intestinal atresia, Hallerman-Streiff syndrome,
20 hip dysplasia, Hirschsprung's disease (congenital
21 megacolon), hydrocephalus due to aqueductal ste-
22 nosis, hypospadias, imperforate anus, neural tube
23 defects, Poland syndrome, pyloric stenosis,
24 syndactyly (fused digits), tracheoesophageal fistula,
25 undescended testes, and Williams syndrome. Af-

1 fected children of these women veterans receive med-
2 ical care and other benefits.

3 (9) However, the care and compensation pro-
4 vided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to the
5 covered children of United States veterans is insuffi-
6 cient to meet their needs related to Agent Orange.

7 (10) The only birth defect recognized for the
8 children of male American veterans is spina bifida
9 (but not occulta). However, many children of male
10 Vietnam war veterans have the same range of birth
11 defects and diseases as seen in the children of fe-
12 male Vietnam war veterans. This discrepancy results
13 in most Agent Orange affected children of United
14 States veterans receiving no care or benefits.

15 (11) No assistance has been given to the chil-
16 dren of male or female Vietnamese or Vietnamese
17 Americans connected with their exposure, or their
18 parents' or grandparents' exposure.

19 (12) The Institute of Medicine for the past sev-
20 eral years has noted that "it is considerably more
21 plausible than previously believed that exposure to
22 the herbicides sprayed in Vietnam might have
23 caused paternally mediated transgenerational effects
24 attributable to the TCCD contaminant in Agent Or-
25 ange". In recent years, scientific studies have identi-

1 fied likely epigenetic links between exposure to tox-
2 ins and birth defects and developmental disorders in
3 subsequent generations. Some of the children and
4 grandchildren of exposed persons (Americans, Viet-
5 namese, and Vietnamese Americans) who were in
6 southern Vietnam during the Vietnam war era likely
7 suffer from disorders, birth defects, and illnesses re-
8 lated to Agent Orange.

9 (13) The assistance that the United States has
10 provided for environmental remediation of contami-
11 nation at the Da Nang and Bien Hoa airports has,
12 in recent years, included funds for public health and
13 disabilities activities for individuals residing in some
14 affected areas.

15 (14) Laos and Cambodia were also sprayed
16 with Agent Orange during the Vietnam war era. At
17 least 527,000 gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed
18 in Laos and significant amounts were also sprayed
19 in Cambodia. Affected Lao and Cambodian people
20 over several generations suffer from medical condi-
21 tions, birth defects, and disabilities similar to those
22 seen in Vietnam and the United States. The United
23 States has the responsibility to take action to miti-
24 gate and provide compensation for those effects.

1 Further action will be needed to ascertain and effec-
2 tively address this legacy of the Vietnam war.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ad-
4 dress and remediate the ongoing damage that arose or will
5 continue to arise from the use of Agent Orange during
6 the Vietnam war.

7 **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF MALE**
8 **VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM WHO**
9 **ARE AFFECTED BY CERTAIN BIRTH DEFECTS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 18 of
11 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) by striking “woman Vietnam veteran” each
13 place it appears and inserting “Vietnam veteran”;

14 (2) by striking “women Vietnam veterans” each
15 place it appears and inserting “Vietnam veterans”;
16 and

17 (3) in the heading of such subchapter, by strik-
18 ing “**Woman**”.

19 (b) ACCESS TO RECORDS FOR RESEARCH PUR-
20 POSES.—Section 1813 of title 38, United States Code, is
21 amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
23 section (d); and

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(c) ACCESS TO RECORDS FOR RESEARCH PUR-
 2 POSES.—(1) The Secretary shall require any health care
 3 provider with whom the Secretary enters into a contract
 4 under this subsection to provide access to the medical
 5 records of individuals who receive health care under this
 6 section to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the pur-
 7 pose of conducting research or providing support for re-
 8 search into the intergenerational effects of Agent Orange
 9 exposure.

10 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘Agent Orange’ in-
 11 cludes any chemical compound which became part, either
 12 by design or through impurities, of an herbicide agent
 13 used in support of the United States and allied military
 14 operations in the Republic of Vietnam.”.

15 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 16 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking
 17 the item relating to subchapter II and inserting the fol-
 18 lowing new item:

“SUBCHAPTER II—CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS BORN WITH CERTAIN
 BIRTH DEFECTS”.

19 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 20 this section shall take effect on the date that is 30 days
 21 after the date of enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 4. PUBLIC RESEARCH.**

23 (a) SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH.—The Secretary of
 24 Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the heads of other

1 appropriate Federal agencies and nongovernmental orga-
2 nizations, shall identify and provide assistance to support
3 research relating to health issues of individuals affected
4 by Agent Orange. Such research should include rec-
5 ommended focus provided by the United States Institute
6 of Medicine as identified in their biennial Veterans and
7 Agent Orange Update and supported by the active involve-
8 ment of schools of public health and medicine located in
9 the United States, Vietnam, and other interested coun-
10 tries.

11 (b) SURVEY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
12 shall conduct a survey of children of veterans who were
13 exposed to Agent Orange and have received health care
14 under subchapter II of chapter 18 of title 38, United
15 States Code. The survey shall be designed to determine
16 the extent to which such children are receiving adequate
17 treatment for their medical conditions and disabilities.
18 The Secretary shall make recommendations based on the
19 survey as to any actions necessary to remedy any defi-
20 ciencies identified pursuant to the survey.

21 **SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
22 **HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND ASSISTANCE FOR**
23 **VIETNAMESE AMERICANS.**

24 (a) HEALTH ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Health
25 and Human Services shall make grants to appropriate

1 public health organizations and Vietnamese American or-
2 ganizations for the purpose of conducting a broad health
3 assessment of Vietnamese Americans who may have been
4 exposed to Agent Orange and their children or descend-
5 ants to determine the effects to their health of such expo-
6 sure.

7 (b) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services shall establish centers in locations in the
9 United States where large populations of Vietnamese
10 Americans reside for the purpose of providing assessment,
11 counseling, and treatment for conditions related to expo-
12 sure to Agent Orange. The Secretary may carry out this
13 subsection through appropriate community and non-
14 governmental organizations or other suitable organiza-
15 tions, as determined by the Secretary.

16 **SEC. 6. DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
19 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall each complete
20 a plan for the implementation of the provisions of this Act,
21 and the amendments made by this Act, that are applicable
22 to such Secretary and shall issue a request for proposals,
23 if applicable. The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
24 ices and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall each im-

1 plement the applicable provisions of this Act by not later
2 than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 7. QUARTERLY REPORTS.**

4 Not later than 30 days after the last day of each fis-
5 cal quarter beginning on or after 18 months after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
7 Human Services and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 shall each submit to Congress a report on the implementa-
9 tion of the provisions of this Act applicable to such Sec-
10 retary during the immediately preceding fiscal quarter.

11 **SEC. 8. DEFINITION.**

12 For purposes of this Act, the term “Agent Orange”
13 includes any chemical compound which became part, ei-
14 ther by design or through impurities, of an herbicide agent
15 used in support of the United States and allied military
16 operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

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