

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1602

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces, to provide certain services to those descendants, to establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2013

Mr. BLUMENTHAL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces, to provide certain services to those descendants, to establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Toxic Exposure Re-
3 search and Military Family Support Act of 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ARMED FORCE.**—The term “Armed Force”
7 means the United States Army, Navy, Marine
8 Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the re-
9 serve components thereof.

10 (2) **DESCENDANT.**—The term “descendant”
11 means, with respect to an individual, the biological
12 child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of that indi-
13 vidual.

14 (3) **TOXIC SUBSTANCE.**—The term “toxic sub-
15 stance” shall have the meaning given that term by
16 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and shall include
17 all substances that have been proven by peer re-
18 viewed scientific research or a preponderance of
19 opinion in the medical community to lead to disabil-
20 ities related to the exposure of an individual to those
21 substances while serving as a member of the Armed
22 Forces.

23 (4) **VETERAN.**—The term “veteran” has the
24 meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38,
25 United States Code.

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DIAGNOSIS, TREAT-**
2 **MENT, AND RESEARCH OF HEALTH CONDI-**
3 **TIONS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF INDIVID-**
4 **UALS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES DUR-**
5 **ING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

6 (a) NATIONAL CENTER.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary of Veterans Affairs shall select a medical cen-
10 ter of the Department of Veterans Affairs to serve
11 as the national center for the diagnosis, treatment,
12 and research of health conditions of descendants of
13 individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving
14 as members of the Armed Forces that are related to
15 that exposure (in this section referred to as the
16 “Center”).

17 (2) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—The Center
18 shall be selected under paragraph (1) from among
19 medical centers of the Department with expertise in
20 diagnosing and treating functional and structural
21 birth defects and caring for individuals exposed to
22 toxic substances, or that are affiliated with research
23 medical centers or teaching hospitals with such ex-
24 pertise, that seek to be selected under this section.

25 (b) FUNCTIONS.—

26 (1) DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Center may diag-
2 nose and treat, without charge, each patient for
3 whom the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has
4 made the following determinations:

5 (i) The patient is a descendant of an
6 individual who served as a member of the
7 Armed Forces.

8 (ii) The individual was exposed to a
9 toxic substance while serving as a member
10 of the Armed Forces.

11 (iii) The patient is afflicted with a
12 health condition that is determined by the
13 advisory board established in section 4 to
14 be a health condition that results from the
15 exposure of that individual to that toxic
16 substance.

17 (B) TREATMENT.—Treatment under this
18 section is limited to treatment of health condi-
19 tions for which the advisory board established
20 in section 4 has made a determination described
21 in subparagraph (A)(iii).

22 (C) ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREAT-
23 MENT.—Nothing in this section shall preclude a
24 patient from receiving additional diagnosis or
25 treatment at the Center or another facility of

1 the Department in connection with other health
2 conditions or benefits to which the individual is
3 entitled under laws administered by the Sec-
4 retary.

5 (D) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE
6 TREATMENT.—Recommendations for future
7 treatment of a patient shall be transmitted to
8 a primary care provider for that patient, with
9 follow-up consultations with the Center sched-
10 uled as appropriate.

11 (E) USE OF RECORDS.—

12 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
13 Defense or the head of a Federal agency
14 may make available to the Secretary of
15 Veterans Affairs for review records held by
16 the Department of Defense, an Armed
17 Force, or that Federal agency, as appro-
18 priate, that might assist the Secretary of
19 Veterans Affairs in making the determina-
20 tions required by subparagraph (A).

21 (ii) MECHANISM.—The Secretary of
22 Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of De-
23 fense or the head of the appropriate Fed-
24 eral agency may jointly establish a mecha-
25 nism for the availability and review of

1 records by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
2 fairs under clause (i).

3 (2) RESEARCH.—The Center may conduct re-
4 search on the diagnosis and treatment of health con-
5 ditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic
6 substances while serving as members of the Armed
7 Forces that are related to that exposure.

8 (c) SOCIAL WORKERS.—The Center shall employ not
9 less than one licensed clinical social worker to coordinate
10 access of patients to appropriate Federal, State, and local
11 social and healthcare programs and to handle case man-
12 agement.

13 (d) REIMBURSEMENT FOR NECESSARY TRAVEL AND
14 ROOM AND BOARD.—The Center may reimburse any par-
15 ent, guardian, spouse, or sibling who accompanies a pa-
16 tient diagnosed or treated pursuant to this section for the
17 reasonable cost of—

18 (1) travel to the Center for diagnosis or treat-
19 ment of the patient pursuant to this section; and

20 (2) room and board during the period in which
21 the patient is undergoing diagnosis or treatment at
22 the Center pursuant to this section.

23 (e) REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually, the
24 Center shall submit a report to Congress that includes the
25 following:

1 (1) A summary of the extent and nature of care
2 provided pursuant to this section.

3 (2) A summary of the research efforts of the
4 Center under this section that have been completed
5 within the previous year and that are ongoing as of
6 the date of the submission of the report under this
7 subsection.

8 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY BOARD.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
11 Veterans Affairs shall establish an advisory board (in this
12 section referred to as the “Advisory Board”) to advise the
13 Center established under section 3, to determine which
14 health conditions result from exposure to toxic substances,
15 and to study and evaluate cases of exposure of current
16 and former members of the Armed Forces to toxic sub-
17 stances if such exposure is related the service of the mem-
18 ber in the Armed Forces.

19 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 (1) COMPOSITION.—Not later than 150 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with
23 the Secretary of Health and Human Services and
24 other heads of Federal agencies as the Secretary of
25 Veterans Affairs determines appropriate, select not

1 less than 13 members of the Advisory Board, of
2 whom—

3 (A) not less than three shall be members
4 of organizations exempt from taxation under
5 section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986;

7 (B) not less than one shall be—

8 (i) a descendant of an individual who
9 was exposed to toxic substances while serv-
10 ing as a member of the Armed Forces and
11 the descendant has manifested a birth de-
12 fect or functional disability as a result of
13 the exposure of that individual; or

14 (ii) a parent, child, or grandchild of
15 that descendant; and

16 (C) additional members may be selected
17 from among—

18 (i) health professionals, scientists, and
19 academics with expertise in—

20 (I) birth defects;

21 (II) developmental disabilities;

22 (III) epigenetics;

23 (IV) public health;

1 (V) the science of environmental
 2 exposure or environmental exposure
 3 assessment; or

4 (VI) the science of toxic sub-
 5 stances;

6 (ii) social workers; and

7 (iii) advocates for veterans or mem-
 8 bers of the Armed Forces.

9 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall select
 10 a Chairperson from among the members of the Advi-
 11 sory Board.

12 (3) TERMS.—Each member of the Advisory
 13 Board shall serve a term of two or three years as
 14 determined by the Secretary.

15 (c) DUTIES.—

16 (1) ADVISORY ROLE WITH RESPECT TO THE
 17 CENTER.—With respect to the Center established
 18 under section 3, the Advisory Board shall—

19 (A) oversee and assess the work of the
 20 Center; and

21 (B) advise the Secretary of Veterans Af-
 22 fairs on—

23 (i) issues related to the provision of
 24 treatment and care at the Center;

1 (ii) issues related to the research con-
2 ducted at the Center; and

3 (iii) the particular benefits and serv-
4 ices required by the descendants of individ-
5 uals exposed to toxic substances while serv-
6 ing as members of the Armed Forces.

7 (2) DETERMINATION THAT HEALTH CONDI-
8 TIONS RESULTED FROM TOXIC EXPOSURE.—The Ad-
9 visory Board shall determine which health conditions
10 in descendants of individuals exposed to toxic sub-
11 stances while serving as members of the Armed
12 Forces are health conditions that resulted from the
13 exposure of that individual to that toxic substance
14 for purposes of eligibility for the following:

15 (A) Treatment of that descendant at the
16 Center established under section 3.

17 (B) Medical care for that descendant
18 under section 1781 of title 38, United States
19 Code.

20 (C) Support for the family caregiver of
21 that descendant under section 1720G(a) of such
22 title.

23 (D) Support for the caregiver of that de-
24 scendant under section 1720G(b) of such title.

1 (3) STUDY AND CONSIDERATION OF TOXIC SUB-
2 STANCE EXPOSURE CLAIMS.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board
4 shall study and evaluate claims of exposure to
5 toxic substances by current and former mem-
6 bers of the Armed Forces that is related to the
7 service of the member in the Armed Forces.

8 (B) SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS.—Claims of
9 exposure described in subparagraph (A) may be
10 submitted to the Advisory Board in such form
11 and in such manner as the Secretary of Vet-
12 erans Affairs may require by any of the fol-
13 lowing individuals or entities:

14 (i) A member of the Armed Forces.

15 (ii) A veteran.

16 (iii) A descendant of a member of the
17 Armed Forces.

18 (iv) A descendant of a veteran.

19 (v) A veterans advocacy group.

20 (vi) An official of the Department of
21 Veterans Affairs with responsibility or ex-
22 perience monitoring the health of current
23 and former members of the Armed Forces.

24 (vii) An official of the Department of
25 Defense with responsibility or experience

1 monitoring the health of current and
2 former members of the Armed Forces.

3 (C) CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS.—Not
4 later than 180 days after receiving a claim sub-
5 mitted pursuant to subparagraph (B), the Advi-
6 sory Board shall consider the claim and take
7 one of the following actions:

8 (i) If the Advisory Board determines
9 that exposure to a toxic substance occurred
10 to a degree that an individual exposed to
11 that substance may have or develop a med-
12 ical condition that would qualify that indi-
13 vidual for health care or compensation
14 from the Department of Veterans Affairs
15 or the Department of Defense, the Advi-
16 sory Board shall submit to the Secretary of
17 Veterans Affairs a report described in sub-
18 paragraph (D).

19 (ii) If the Advisory Board determines
20 that further consideration of the claim is
21 necessary to adequately assess the extent
22 of exposure, the Advisory Board shall refer
23 the claim to the Office of Extramural Re-
24 search established under section 5 to con-

1 duct further research and report its find-
2 ings to the Advisory Board.

3 (iii) If the Advisory Board determines
4 that exposure to a toxic substance did not
5 occur or occurred to a negligible extent,
6 the Advisory Board shall report such de-
7 termination to the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs.

9 (D) REPORT.—If the Advisory Board
10 makes a determination under subparagraph
11 (C)(i), the Advisory Board shall submit to the
12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report that con-
13 tains the following:

14 (i) Evidence used by the Advisory
15 Board in making the determination under
16 subparagraph (C)(i), including, if appro-
17 priate, the following:

18 (I) Scientific research, including
19 any research conducted by the Office
20 of Extramural Research established
21 under section 5.

22 (II) Peer-reviewed articles from
23 scientific journals relating to exposure
24 to toxic substances.

1 (III) Medical research conducted
2 by the Department of Veterans Af-
3 fairs, the Department of Defense, or
4 the medical community.

5 (ii) Recommendations on the extent to
6 which the Department of Veterans Affairs
7 or the Department of Defense should pro-
8 vide health care, benefits, or other com-
9 pensation with respect to exposure to a
10 toxic substance to the following individuals:

11 (I) An individual exposed to a
12 toxic substance as determined under
13 subparagraph (C)(i).

14 (II) A descendant of that indi-
15 vidual.

16 (iii) Information on cost and attrib-
17 utable exposure, as defined in regulations
18 prescribed pursuant to this Act.

19 (E) PUBLICATION OF EVIDENCE.—

20 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
21 in clause (ii), the Secretary shall publish in
22 the Federal Register the evidence described
23 in clause (i) of subparagraph (D) that is
24 submitted with the report required by that
25 subparagraph.

1 (ii) EXCEPTION.—Such evidence may
2 not be published if the Secretary deter-
3 mines that preventing such publication—

4 (I) is in the national security in-
5 terest of the United States; or

6 (II) protects the privacy interests
7 of individuals exposed to toxic sub-
8 stances.

9 (F) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.—The Advi-
10 sory Board may require by subpoena the at-
11 tendance and testimony of witnesses necessary
12 to consider claims of exposure to toxic sub-
13 stances under this paragraph.

14 (G) COOPERATION OF FEDERAL AGEN-
15 CIES.—The head of each relevant Federal agen-
16 cy, including the Administrator of the Environ-
17 mental Protection Agency, shall cooperate fully
18 with the Advisory Board for purposes of consid-
19 ering claims of exposure to toxic substances
20 under this paragraph.

21 (d) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Board shall meet at
22 the call of the Chair, but not less frequently than semi-
23 annually.

24 (e) COMPENSATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Advi-
2 sory Board shall serve without compensation.

3 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
4 Advisory Board shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
5 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates au-
6 thorized for employees of agencies under subchapter
7 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
8 away from their homes or regular places of business
9 in the performance of services for the Advisory
10 Board.

11 (f) PERSONNEL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson may, with-
13 out regard to the civil service laws and regulations,
14 appoint an executive director of the Advisory Board,
15 who shall be a civilian employee of the Department
16 of Veterans Affairs, and such other personnel as
17 may be necessary to enable the Advisory Board to
18 perform its duties.

19 (2) APPROVAL.—The appointment of an execu-
20 tive director under paragraph (1) shall be subject to
21 approval by the Advisory Board.

22 (3) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson may fix
23 the compensation of the executive director and other
24 personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter
25 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5,

1 United States Code, except that the rate of pay for
2 the executive director and other personnel may not
3 exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive
4 Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

5 **SEC. 5. OFFICE OF EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH.**

6 (a) OFFICE.—Not later than 180 days after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs shall establish an Office of Extramural Research
9 (in this section referred to as the “Office”)—

10 (1) to conduct research on wounds, illnesses, in-
11 juries, and other conditions suffered by individuals
12 as a result of exposure to toxic substances while
13 serving as members of the Armed Forces; and

14 (2) to assist the Advisory Board established
15 under section 4 in the consideration of claims of ex-
16 posure to toxic substances.

17 (b) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
18 shall select a Director of the Office.

19 (c) GRANTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to approval by the
21 advisory council established under subsection (e), the
22 Director may award grants to reputable scientists
23 and epidemiologists to carry out this section.

24 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Director may not award
25 grants to individuals or organizations associated

1 with or having an interest in a chemical company or
2 any other organization that the Secretary determines
3 may have an interest in the increased use of toxic
4 substances.

5 (d) SUPPORT TO ADVISORY BOARD.—Not later than
6 180 days after receiving a request from the Advisory
7 Board established under section 4 to review a claim of ex-
8 posure pursuant to subsection (c)(3)(C)(ii) of that section,
9 the Office shall submit a report to the Advisory Board
10 with one of the following determinations:

11 (1) A determination that exposure to a toxic
12 substance occurred to a degree that an individual ex-
13 posed to that substance may have or develop a med-
14 ical condition that would qualify that individual for
15 health care or compensation from the Department of
16 Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense.

17 (2) A determination that further study of the
18 claim is necessary, to be carried out by, or under the
19 direction of, the Office in coordination with the Ad-
20 visory Board.

21 (3) A determination that exposure to a toxic
22 substance did not occur or occurred to a negligible
23 extent.

24 (e) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
 2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 3 retary of Veterans Affairs shall establish an advisory
 4 council (in this section referred to as the “Council”)
 5 for the Office established under this section.

6 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

7 (A) COMPOSITION.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
 9 Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with
 10 the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
 11 ices and any other heads of Federal agen-
 12 cies as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 13 determines appropriate, select 11 members
 14 of the Council, of whom—

15 (I) not less than three shall be
 16 members of organizations exempt
 17 from taxation under section
 18 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue
 19 Code of 1986; and

20 (II) additional members may be
 21 selected from among—

22 (aa) environmental epi-
 23 demiologists;

24 (bb) academics; and

1 (cc) veterans or the descend-
2 ants of veterans.

3 (ii) REQUIREMENTS FOR SCI-
4 ENTISTS.—When considering individuals
5 who are members of the scientific commu-
6 nity for selection to the Council, the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs may select only
8 those individuals—

9 (I) who have evidenced expertise
10 in and demonstrate a commitment to
11 research that leads to peer-reviewed
12 scientific evaluation of the wounds, ill-
13 nesses, injuries, and other conditions
14 that may arise from exposure to toxic
15 substances; and

16 (II) who are not associated with
17 and do not have an interest in a
18 chemical company or any other orga-
19 nization that the Secretary determines
20 may have an interest in the increased
21 use of toxic substances.

22 (B) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Vet-
23 erans Affairs shall select a Chairperson from
24 among the members of the Council.

1 (C) TERMS.—Each member of the Council
2 shall serve a term of two or three years as de-
3 termined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

4 (3) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

5 (A) approve or disapprove of grants pro-
6 posed to be awarded by the Director pursuant
7 to subsection (c); and

8 (B) advise the Secretary of Veterans Af-
9 fairs and the Director on—

10 (i) establishing guidelines for grant
11 proposals and research proposals under
12 this section; and

13 (ii) assisting the Advisory Board es-
14 tablished under section 4 in the consider-
15 ation of claims of exposure to toxic sub-
16 stances.

17 (4) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the
18 call of the Chairperson, but not less frequently than
19 semiannually.

20 (5) COMPENSATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the
22 Council shall serve without compensation.

23 (B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of
24 the Council shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
25 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates

1 authorized for employees of agencies under sub-
2 chapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
3 Code, while away from their homes or regular
4 places of business in the performance of serv-
5 ices for the Council.

6 (f) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the es-
7 tablishment of the Office under this section, the Director
8 and the Chairman of the Council shall jointly submit to
9 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Congress a report
10 that contains the following:

11 (1) A summary of the research efforts con-
12 ducted and the grants awarded under this section.

13 (2) A summary of the effects of exposure to
14 toxic substances studied pursuant to this section.

15 (3) Recommendations for steps to be taken to
16 care for and serve—

17 (A) individuals exposed to toxic substances
18 while serving as a member of the Armed
19 Forces; and

20 (B) the progeny of those individuals.

1 **SEC. 6. PROVISION OF DEPENDENT CARE AND CAREGIVER**
 2 **ASSISTANCE TO DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS**
 3 **EXPOSED TO CERTAIN TOXIC SUBSTANCES**
 4 **DURING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

5 (a) DEPENDENT CARE.—Section 1781(a) of title 38,
 6 United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “, and” and
 8 inserting a comma;

9 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the semicolon
 10 at the end and inserting “, and”; and

11 (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
 12 lowing new paragraph:

13 “(5) an individual who is the biological child,
 14 grandchild, or great-grandchild of a veteran who the
 15 Secretary has determined was exposed to a toxic
 16 substance while serving as a member of the Armed
 17 Forces, if—

18 “(A) the individual has a health condition
 19 that is determined by the Advisory Board estab-
 20 lished by section 4 of the Toxic Exposure Re-
 21 search and Military Family Support Act of
 22 2013 to be a health condition that results from
 23 exposure to that toxic substance,

24 “(B) the individual is homebound as a re-
 25 sult of that health condition, and

1 “(C) the Secretary determines that the vet-
 2 eran has or had the same health condition,”.

3 (b) CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE.—

4 (1) COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE.—Subsection
 5 (a) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code,
 6 is amended—

7 (A) by striking “veteran” each place it ap-
 8 pears (except for paragraph (2)(A)) and insert-
 9 ing “individual”;

10 (B) by striking “veterans” each place it
 11 appears and inserting “individuals”;

12 (C) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and
 14 (B) and inserting the following:

15 “(A)(i) is a veteran or member of the Armed
 16 Forces undergoing medical discharge from the
 17 Armed Forces and has a serious injury (including
 18 traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma, or
 19 other mental disorder) incurred or aggravated in the
 20 line of duty in the active military, naval, or air serv-
 21 ice on or after September 11, 2001; or

22 “(ii) is the biological child, grandchild, or great-
 23 grandchild of a veteran who the Secretary has deter-
 24 mined was exposed to a toxic substance while serv-
 25 ing as a member of the Armed Forces, if—

1 “(I) the individual has a health condition
 2 that is determined by the Advisory Board estab-
 3 lished by section 4 of the Toxic Exposure Re-
 4 search and Military Family Support Act of
 5 2013 to be a health condition that results from
 6 exposure to that toxic substance;

7 “(II) the individual is homebound as a re-
 8 sult of that health condition; and

9 “(III) the Secretary determines that the
 10 veteran has or had the same health condition;
 11 and”;

12 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
 13 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

14 (D) in paragraph (9)(C)(i), by striking
 15 “veteran’s” and inserting “individual’s”.

16 (2) GENERAL CAREGIVER SUPPORT.—Sub-
 17 section (b) of such section is amended—

18 (A) by striking “veteran” each place it ap-
 19 pears and inserting “individual”;

20 (B) by striking “veterans” each place it
 21 appears and inserting “individuals”;

22 (C) in paragraph (1), by striking “who
 23 are” and all that follows through “of this title”;
 24 and

25 (D) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
 2 (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and
 3 (iii), respectively; and

4 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 5 as redesignated by clause (i), by striking
 6 “any individual who needs” and inserting
 7 “any individual who—

8 “(A)(i) is enrolled in the health care system es-
 9 tablished under section 1705(a) of this title; or

10 “(ii) is the biological child, grandchild, or great-
 11 grandchild of a veteran who the Secretary has deter-
 12 mined was exposed to a toxic substance while serv-
 13 ing as a member of the Armed Forces, if—

14 “(I) the individual has a health condition
 15 that is determined by the Advisory Board estab-
 16 lished by section 4 of the Toxic Exposure Re-
 17 search and Military Family Support Act of
 18 2013 to be a health condition that results from
 19 exposure to that toxic substance;

20 “(II) the individual is homebound as a re-
 21 sult of that health condition; and

22 “(III) the Secretary determines that the
 23 veteran has or had the same health condition;
 24 and

25 “(B) needs”.

1 (3) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (d) of such sec-
 2 tion is amended—

3 (A) by striking “eligible veteran” each
 4 place it appears and inserting “eligible indi-
 5 vidual”;

6 (B) by striking “covered veteran” each
 7 place it appears and inserting “covered indi-
 8 vidual”;

9 (C) in paragraph (1), by striking “the vet-
 10 eran” and inserting “the eligible individual or
 11 covered individual”;

12 (D) in paragraph (2), by striking “the vet-
 13 eran” and inserting “the eligible individual”;

14 (E) in paragraph (3), by striking “the vet-
 15 eran” each place it appears and inserting “the
 16 eligible individual”;

17 (F) in paragraph (4), by striking “the vet-
 18 eran” and inserting “the eligible individual or
 19 covered individual”; and

20 (G) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(5) The term ‘toxic substance’ has the mean-
 22 ing given that term in section 2 of the Toxic Expo-
 23 sure Research and Military Family Support Act of
 24 2013.”.

25 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111 of title
2 38, United States Code, is amended—

3 (A) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the
4 end the following new subparagraph:

5 “(G) An individual described in section
6 1720G(a)(2)(A)(ii) of this title.”; and

7 (B) in subsection (e)—

8 (i) by striking “veteran” each place it
9 appears (except for paragraph (2)(B)) and
10 inserting “individual”; and

11 (ii) in paragraph (2)(B)—

12 (I) by striking “a veteran” and
13 inserting “an individual”; and

14 (II) by striking “such veteran”
15 and inserting “such individual”.

16 (2) COUNSELING, TRAINING, AND MENTAL
17 HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1782(c)(2) of such title
18 is amended by striking “an eligible veteran or a
19 caregiver of a covered veteran” and inserting “a vet-
20 eran who is an eligible individual or a caregiver of
21 a veteran who is a covered individual”.

1 **SEC. 7. DECLASSIFICATION BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**
2 **OF CERTAIN INCIDENTS OF EXPOSURE OF**
3 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO TOXIC**
4 **SUBSTANCES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may de-
6 classify documents related to any known incident in which
7 not less than 100 members of the Armed Forces were ex-
8 posed to a toxic substance that resulted in at least one
9 case of a disability that a member of the medical profes-
10 sion has determined to be associated with that toxic sub-
11 stance.

12 (b) LIMITATION.—The declassification authorized by
13 subsection (a) shall be limited to information necessary
14 for an individual who was potentially exposed to a toxic
15 substance to determine the following:

16 (1) Whether that individual was exposed to that
17 toxic substance.

18 (2) The potential severity of the exposure of
19 that individual to that toxic substance.

20 (3) Any potential health conditions that may
21 have resulted from exposure to that toxic substance.

22 (c) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Defense is not re-
23 quired to declassify documents if the Secretary determines
24 that declassification of those documents would materially
25 and immediately threaten the security of the United
26 States.

1 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGN ON POTENTIAL**
2 **LONG-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE**
3 **TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES BY MEMBERS OF THE**
4 **ARMED FORCES AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.**

5 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of
6 Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Defense
7 shall jointly conduct a national outreach and education
8 campaign directed towards members of the Armed Forces,
9 veterans, and their family members to communicate the
10 following information:

11 (1) Information on—

12 (A) incidents of exposure of members of
13 the Armed Forces to toxic substances;

14 (B) health conditions resulting from such
15 exposure; and

16 (C) the potential long-term effects of such
17 exposure on the individuals exposed to those
18 substances and the descendants of those indi-
19 viduals.

20 (2) Information on the national center estab-
21 lished under section 3 of this Act for individuals eli-
22 gible for treatment at the center.

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