

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6026

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to enact and the President of the United States to sign 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 or 2015 House Bill H.R. 1769, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, into law.

WHEREAS, Over the years, millions have served our great nation in the armed forces of the United States. During their service, many have been exposed to toxins with unknown consequences. Most of these veterans did not know they were exposed to harmful materials and as a result, suffered from the harmful effects of such toxins; and

WHEREAS, Many children and grandchildren of these veterans were born with both structural and nonstructural defects. Some have been accepted for treatment by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a result of the toxic exposure associated with their parent's service; and

WHEREAS, Birth anomalies in the children of veterans are not tracked as normal birth defects, so the majority of such birth anomalies are unreported, unexplained and not researched; and

WHEREAS, Most states that have birth defect registries do not report to a national birth defect registry. Miscarriages and stillbirths are seldom researched for cause and are not tracked on a national registry. Even infant mortality and birth defects of the children of dependents are not tracked or put into a federal registry; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Defense have been tracking toxic exposures and possible exposures without follow-up research on the veterans and their offspring. 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 and 2015 House Bill H.R. 1769 would require the United States Secretary of Defense and the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs to share data regarding toxic exposures; and

WHEREAS, Parents of children with birth defects carry a heavy emotional and financial burden. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and its toxic contaminants have reported a variety of serious health problems and symptoms, which include cancers and birth defects in children. The number of Vietnam veterans who have children and grandchildren with birth defects related to exposure to Agent Orange are significant. The research of such birth defects is important for purposes of proper diagnosis, treatment and care of veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 and 2015 House Bill H.R. 1769 would create a national center within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for the research and the diagnosis of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service in the armed forces of the United States. This national center would be monitored by a board of advisors charged with oversight and assessment of the national center. 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 and 2015 House Bill H.R. 1769 would also create a database of birth defects and anomalies, both structural and nonstructural: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we urge the United States Congress to enact and the President of the United States to sign 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 or 2015 House Bill H.R. 1769, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, into law.

House Resolution No. 6026 was sponsored by Representatives Sue Boldra and Mario Goico.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.