

S 1602

Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Oct 29, 2013

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Oct 29, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1602>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Nov 6, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 29, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 5484	Related bill	Sep 29, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
113 S 2738	Related bill	Jul 31, 2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
113 HR 4816	Related bill	Jul 1, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to:

- select a medical center in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to serve as the national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants (i.e., a biological child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure;
- establish an advisory board to advise the center, to determine which health conditions result from exposure to toxic substances, and to study and evaluate cases of exposure of current and former members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances; and
- establish an Office of Extramural Research to conduct research on wounds, illnesses, injuries, and other conditions suffered by active members of the Armed Forces resulting from exposure to toxic substances and to assist the advisory board in considering claims of exposure to toxic substances.

Extends eligibility for medical care and caregiver assistance to descendants of a veteran who was exposed to toxic substances while serving as a member of the Armed Forces if: (1) the descendant has a health condition resulting from exposure to toxic substances and is homebound due to such condition, and (2) the veteran has or had the same health condition.

Authorizes the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to declassify documents (other than documents that would materially and immediately threaten national security) related to any known incident in which not less than 100 members of the Armed Forces were exposed to a toxic substance that resulted in at least one case of disability.

Directs the VA Secretary, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the DOD Secretary to jointly conduct a national outreach and education campaign directed at members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their family members to communicate information on incidents of exposure to toxic substances, health conditions resulting from such exposure, and the potential long-term effects of such exposure.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 29, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 29, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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