

## HR 5484

### Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Sep 16, 2014

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Sep 29, 2014)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5484>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Benishek, Dan [R-MI-1]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** MI • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (24 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Sep 16, 2014
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Sep 16, 2014
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Sep 16, 2014
Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [D-WV-3]	D · WV		Sep 16, 2014
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Sep 18, 2014
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Nov 12, 2014
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Nov 13, 2014
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Walberg, Tim [R-MI-7]	R · MI		Nov 14, 2014
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Nov 17, 2014
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Nov 17, 2014
Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8]	R · IN		Nov 18, 2014
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Dec 1, 2014
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Dec 1, 2014
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Dec 1, 2014
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Dec 1, 2014
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Dec 3, 2014
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Dec 3, 2014
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Dec 3, 2014
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Dec 9, 2014
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Dec 9, 2014
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Dec 9, 2014
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Dec 11, 2014

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 16, 2014
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 29, 2014

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 2738	Identical 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.
113 S 1602	Related bill	Oct 29, 2013: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## Summary (as of Sep 16, 2014)

Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014 - 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 research on the diagnosis and treatment 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.

Requires the national research center to employ at least one licensed clinical social worker to coordinate the access of individuals to appropriate federal, state, and local social and health care programs and to handle case management.

Directs the Secretary to establish an advisory board to: (1) advise the national research center, (2) determine which health conditions in the descendants of individuals who were exposed to toxic substances while serving in the Armed Forces result from such exposure for purposes of determining those descendants' eligibility for VA medical care, and (3) study and evaluate claims of service-related exposure to toxic substances by current and former members of the Armed Forces.

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 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: (1) incidents of exposure to toxic substances, health conditions resulting from such exposure, and the potential long-term effects of such exposure; and (2) the national research center.

## Actions Timeline

- Sep 29, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- Sep 16, 2014: Introduced in House
- Sep 16, 2014: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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.