

HR 5680

Veterans' Toxic Wounds Research Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Sep 19, 2014

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Oct 28, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5680>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Nov 13, 2014
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Nov 20, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 28, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Veterans' Toxic Wounds Research Act of 2014 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a master registry of veterans who experienced toxic exposures while serving in the Armed Forces. Includes in the master registry the registries for:

- Agent Orange;
- exposure to toxins relating to a deployment during the Persian Gulf War;
- exposure to toxins relating to a deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, or the Global War on Terror;
- exposure to toxins relating to a deployment to Bosnia, Somalia, or the Philippines; and
- exposure to toxins relating to being stationed at a military installation potentially contaminated by toxic substances.

Directs the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review published scientific information and studies, and make recommendations for future research, on the health effects: (1) of the toxic exposures covered in those registries, and (2) on the children and grandchildren of veterans who had a toxic exposure covered in those registries. Requires those reviews to inform the Secretary's selection of research to be conducted or funded by the VA.

Establishes a presumption of a service connection, for the purpose of veterans' disability and survivor benefits, for an illness that:

- the Secretary determines warrants such a presumption by reason of having a positive association with exposure to a toxic substance covered in the master registry; and
- becomes manifest, within the period the Secretary prescribes, in a veteran who experienced such exposure while serving in the Armed Forces.

Requires the Secretary's service connection determinations to be based on sound medical and scientific evidence that a positive association exists between: (1) the exposure of humans or animals to a toxic substance covered in the master registry, and (2) the occurrence of a diagnosed or undiagnosed illness in humans or animals.

Directs the Secretary, in implementing the VA's electronic health record system, to include specified information in each individual's electronic health record, including whether the individual served in the Armed Forces and, if so, the locations and dates of such service.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 28, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Sep 19, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 19, 2014:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.