

## HR 1279

### Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Mar 1, 2017

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

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Mar 27, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1279>

## Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]

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

## Cosponsors (44 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Costello, Ryan A. [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Mar 1, 2017
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Mar 1, 2017
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Mar 1, 2017
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Mar 24, 2017
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Mar 29, 2017
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Apr 3, 2017
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Apr 3, 2017
Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]	R · WV		Apr 4, 2017
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Apr 4, 2017
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Apr 4, 2017
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Apr 4, 2017
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Apr 6, 2017
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Apr 24, 2017
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		May 2, 2017
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		May 2, 2017
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		May 11, 2017
Del. Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman [R-AS-At Large]	R · AS		May 18, 2017
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		May 24, 2017
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Jun 2, 2017
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Jun 12, 2017
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jun 20, 2017
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Sep 13, 2017
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Sep 26, 2017
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Sep 26, 2017
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Sep 27, 2017
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Oct 3, 2017
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Oct 3, 2017
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Oct 4, 2017
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Oct 10, 2017
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Oct 24, 2017
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Oct 26, 2017
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Oct 31, 2017
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Nov 6, 2017
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Nov 29, 2017
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Jan 22, 2018
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Mar 1, 2018
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Mar 14, 2018
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Mar 19, 2018
Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-3]	R · PA		May 9, 2018
Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]	D · TX		May 16, 2018
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Jun 6, 2018

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jun 13, 2018
Rep. Hultgren, Randy [R-IL-14]	R · IL		Aug 14, 2018
Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-18]	D · PA		Sep 6, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 23, 2017
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 27, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 5895	Related bill	Sep 21, 2018: Became Public Law No: 115-244.
115 S 319	Identical bill	Feb 6, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## **Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act**

This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits and other environmental exposures in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The VA shall, in selecting the center's site, consider entities that:

- are equipped with the specialized equipment needed to study, diagnose, and treat health conditions relating to such exposure;
- have a track record of publishing information on post-deployment health exposures among veterans who served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom;
- have access to animal models and in vitro models of dust immunology and lung injury consistent with the injuries of members of the Armed Forces who served in support of such operations; and
- have expertise in allergy, immunology, and pulmonary diseases.

The VA shall ensure that the center collaborates with the Department of Defense (DOD), institutions of higher education, and other appropriate public and private entities to:

- provide for dissemination within the VA of best practices for the treatment of such conditions and the training of health professionals,
- provide guidance for the VA and DOD health systems in determining the personnel required to provide quality health care for members of the Armed Forces and veterans with such conditions,
- establish, and oversee a program to train VA and DOD health professionals in the treatment of such conditions,
- facilitate advancements in the study of the short-term and long-term effects of such exposure,
- conduct basic science and translational research on such conditions for the purposes of understanding the etiology of such conditions and developing preventive interventions and new treatments, and
- provide medical treatment to veterans diagnosed with medical conditions specific to exposure to burn pits and other environmental exposures.

The center shall have access to and make use of the data accumulated by the burn pits registry.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 27, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Mar 23, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Mar 1, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 1, 2017:** 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.