

HR 2368

COVENANT Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 5, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. (Jun 22, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2368>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]

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

Cosponsors (11 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Mrvan, Frank J. [D-IN-1] | D · IN | | Apr 8, 2021 |
| Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8] | D · MI | | Apr 8, 2021 |
| Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1] | D · RI | | May 4, 2021 |
| Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5] | D · MN | | May 4, 2021 |
| Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15] | R · OH | | May 4, 2021 |
| Rep. Phillips, Dean [D-MN-3] | D · MN | | May 11, 2021 |
| Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6] | D · WA | | May 18, 2021 |
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC | | May 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52] | D · CA | | May 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31] | D · CA | | Jun 11, 2021 |
| Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3] | D · VA | | Aug 31, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | House | Referred to | Jun 22, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Conceding Our Veterans' Exposures Now And Necessitating Training Act of 2021 or the COVENANT Act of 2021

This bill establishes a presumption of service-connection for certain illnesses related to exposure to airborne hazards or open burn pits and addresses the care available through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for veterans with illnesses they assert to be related to exposures during their service.

Specifically, the bill establishes a presumption of service-connection for certain illnesses becoming manifest in covered veterans to a degree of 10% or more. Under a presumption of service-connection, specific conditions diagnosed in certain veterans are presumed to have been caused by the circumstances of their military service. Health care benefits and disability compensation may then be awarded.

A covered veteran is any veteran who

- served on or after August 2, 1990, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates; or
- served on or after September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, the Philippines, or other countries the VA determines to be relevant.

Among other elements, the bill

- requires the VA to provide medical examinations for veterans who submit a claim for disability compensation for an illness not listed in the bill but that is asserted to be related to airborne hazard or open burn pit exposure;
- authorizes the VA to stay pending claims for disability compensation related to the service and illnesses covered by this bill until the implementation of the bill; and
- provides VA hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to covered veterans.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 22, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Apr 5, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 5, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.