

HR 3518

Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 25, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (May 26, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3518>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]

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

Cosponsors (15 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9] | D · TN | | Jun 14, 2021 |
| Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4] | D · IL | | Jun 14, 2021 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2] | D · MA | | Jun 14, 2021 |
| Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6] | D · MA | | Jun 14, 2021 |
| Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2] | D · WI | | Jun 15, 2021 |
| Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3] | D · AZ | | Jun 16, 2021 |
| Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5] | D · CT | | Jun 16, 2021 |
| Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5] | D · CA | | Jun 16, 2021 |
| Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3] | D · OR | | Jun 22, 2021 |
| Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5] | D · MN | | Jun 22, 2021 |
| Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27] | D · CA | | Jul 6, 2021 |
| Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7] | D · MA | | Jul 6, 2021 |
| Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [D-NY-16] | D · NY | | Nov 9, 2021 |
| Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large] | D · VT | | Nov 9, 2021 |
| Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16] | D · TX | | Nov 30, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Energy and Commerce Committee | House | Referred to | May 26, 2021 |
| Foreign Affairs Committee | House | Referred To | May 25, 2021 |
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | House | Referred To | May 25, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of May 25, 2021)

Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2021

This bill requires the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide assistance to people in Vietnam in relation to Agent Orange exposure.

Specifically, the State Department must provide assistance (1) to address the health care needs of certain residents of Vietnam affected by Agent Orange exposure, (2) to institutions in Vietnam that provide health care to such individuals, (3) to improve housing and reduce poverty for specified individuals and their families, and (4) to remediate areas of Vietnam that contain high levels of Agent Orange.

HHS must (1) make grants to public health organizations and Vietnamese American organizations to conduct a broad health assessment of Vietnamese Americans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange and their descendants; and (2) establish centers in U.S. locations where large populations of Vietnamese Americans reside to provide assessment, counseling, and treatment for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure.

Under the bill, certain benefits will be made available to the children of male Vietnam veterans who are affected by certain birth defects. Currently, these benefits are only available to the children of women Vietnam veterans. The VA shall require any health care provider with whom the VA enters into a contract for the provision of health care to such children to provide the VA access to their medical records for research into the intergenerational effects of Agent Orange exposure.

Actions Timeline

- **May 26, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **May 25, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **May 25, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Energy and Commerce, 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.

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