

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

LLS NO. R15-0637.01 Melanie Pawlyszyn x2802

**SJR15-008**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Crowder,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Navarro,**

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**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-008**

101     **CONCERNING THE SUPPORT OF U.S. SENATE BILL 1602.**

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1           WHEREAS, U.S. Senate Bill 1602, "Toxic Exposure Research and  
2 Military Family Support Act of 2013", was introduced on October 29,  
3 2013; and

4           WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Forces and veterans from all  
5 of our wars and conflicts, including non-wartime veterans, were exposed  
6 to toxic substances while serving our country; and

7           WHEREAS, No government agency has addressed the full effects  
8 of toxic substances exposure these veterans passed on to their  
9 descendants, including biological children, grandchildren, and  
10 great-grandchildren; and

11          WHEREAS, These descendants are experiencing disproportionate

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 numbers of health problems such as diabetes, leukemia, autism, various  
2 cancers, and about 700 additional illnesses, as documented on the  
3 Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance web site; and

4 WHEREAS, U.S. Senate Bill 1602 directed the Secretary of  
5 Veterans Affairs to:

6 ! Select a medical center in the Department of Veteran  
7 Affairs to serve as the national center for the diagnosis,  
8 treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants  
9 of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as  
10 members of the Armed Forces, which conditions are or  
11 may be related to that exposure;

12 ! Establish an advisory board to advise the center to  
13 determine which health conditions result from exposure to  
14 toxic substances and to study and evaluate cases of  
15 exposure of current and former members of the Armed  
16 Forces to toxic substances; and

17 ! Establish an Office of Extramural Research to conduct  
18 research on wounds, illnesses, injuries, and other  
19 conditions suffered by active members of the Armed  
20 Forces resulting from exposure to toxic substances and to  
21 assist the advisory board in considering claims of exposure  
22 to toxic substances; and

23 WHEREAS, U.S. Senate Bill 1602 would have:

24 ! Extended eligibility for medical care and caregiver  
25 assistance to descendants of veterans who were exposed to  
26 toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed  
27 Forces if the descendant has a health condition resulting  
28 from exposure to toxic substances and is homebound due  
29 to the condition, and the veteran has or had the same health  
30 condition;

31 ! Authorized the Secretary of Defense to declassify  
32 documents, other than documents that would materially and  
33 immediately threaten national security, related to any  
34 known incident in which no fewer than 100 members of the  
35 Armed Forces were exposed to a toxic substance that  
36 resulted in at least one case of disability; and

37 ! Directed the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of  
38 Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Defense  
39 to jointly conduct a national outreach and education  
40 campaign directed at members of the Armed Forces,

1 veterans, and their family members to communicate  
2 information on incidents of exposure to toxic substances,  
3 health conditions resulting from the exposure, and the  
4 potential long-term effects of the exposure; and

5 WHEREAS, The American GI Forum supports members of the  
6 Armed Forces, veterans, and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pueblo chapter of the American GI Forum as  
8 well as veterans nationwide asked for the support of Colorado's American  
9 GI Forum members to encourage the United States Senators and  
10 Congressional Representatives to actively support the passage of U.S.  
11 Senate Bill 1602; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pueblo chapter of the American GI Forum is  
13 resolved to continue advocating for the descendants of members of the  
14 Armed Forces and veterans exposed to toxic substances while serving our  
15 country; and

16 WHEREAS, U.S. Senate Bill 1602 was read twice and referred to  
17 the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on October 29, 2013; now,  
18 therefore,

19 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*  
20 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

21 (1) That we, the General Assembly, support the enactment of the  
22 "Toxic Exposure Research and Military Support Act" for research  
23 regarding the effects of toxic substances exposure and support for  
24 affected members of the Armed Forces, veterans, their families, and their  
25 descendants; and

26 (2) We strongly urge Senator Michael Bennet, Senator Cory  
27 Gardner, Representative Diana DeGette, Representative Doug Lamborn,  
28 Representative Ed Perlmutter, Representative Mike Coffman,  
29 Representative Jared Polis, Representative Scott Tipton, and  
30 Representative Ken Buck \_\_\_\_\_ to reintroduce the "Toxic Exposure  
31 Research and Military Support Act" in 2015, and we urge the United  
32 States Congress to adopt the legislation.

33 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be  
34 distributed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Pueblo Chapter of the

1 American GI Forum, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health  
2 and Human Services, and the members of Colorado's congressional  
3 delegation.