

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2469

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish an outreach program to inform members of the Armed Forces, assigned to work near burn pits, of the risks of toxic exposure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2023

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish an outreach program to inform members of the Armed Forces, assigned to work near burn pits, of the risks of toxic exposure, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Toxic Exposure Edu-
5 cation for Servicemembers Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
2 **REGARDING POSSIBLE TOXIC EXPOSURE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans
6 Affairs, shall establish—

7 (1) a new risk assessment for toxic exposure for
8 members of the Armed Forces assigned to work near
9 burn pits; and

10 (2) an outreach program to inform such mem-
11 bers regarding such toxic exposure. Such program
12 shall include information regarding benefits and sup-
13 port programs furnished by the Secretary (including
14 eligibility requirements and timelines) regarding
15 toxic exposure.

16 (b) PROMOTION.—The Secretary of Defense shall
17 promote the program to members described in subsection
18 (a) by direct mail, email, text messaging, and social media.

19 (c) PUBLICATION.—Not later than one year after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
21 shall publish on a website of the Department of Defense
22 a list of resources furnished by the Secretary for—

23 (1) members and veterans who experienced
24 toxic exposure in the course of serving as a member
25 of the Armed Forces;

1 (2) dependents and caregivers of such members
2 and veterans; and

3 (3) survivors of such members and veterans
4 who receive death benefits under laws administered
5 by the Secretary.

6 (d) TOXIC EXPOSURE DEFINED.—In this section, the
7 term “toxic exposure” has the meaning given such term
8 in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

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