



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & POLICY INITIATIVES

118TH ★
CONGRESS



The Toxic Exposure Research Act (TERA), P.L. 114-315 Sections 631 through 634

This law laid the groundwork for research to determine if there is any link between a veteran's exposure and reported medical maladies in their progeny.

Understanding the Issue

*The Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, P.L. 114-315, Subtitle C, Toxic Exposure Section 632(d), requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to “seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Medicine under which the National Academy of Medicine conducts an assessment on scientific research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure.”*¹

On July 21, 2021, the VA Secretary sent a letter to Senator Jerry Moran, (R-KS), Ranking Member, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee regarding section 632(d), P.L. 114-315, raising the question of certification of the ability to conduct further research into the conditions of descendants of veterans subject to in-service toxic exposures, and their **opposition** to conducting this type of research.

VVA believes it evident that the VA Secretary did not follow Section 632(d) of the *Toxic Exposure Research Act* as identified in the law. Based on NASEM's declaration of feasibility, in the VA-contracted report issued in 2018, *Gulf War and Health Volume 11: Generational Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War*², which states that the intergenerational research mandated by the *Toxic Exposure Research Act* (P.L. 114-315) is both plausible and necessary.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs must be required, as the law stipulates, to enter into an agreement with a reputable research entity such as the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

We are asking Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS), Ranking Minority Member, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, the champion of this law, to hold an oversight committee hearing, with the VA Secretary as the star witness, to investigate what metrics he used that empowered him to not follow the law.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the only national Vietnam Veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

www.vva.org

¹ [STATUTE-130-Pg1536.pdf \(congress.gov\)](#)

² [Gulf War and Health Volume 11 Generational Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War | National Academies](#)