

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI**

**Introduced: 2/21/14**

**Referred: Health and Social Services, State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass S. 1602, the Toxic Exposure Research and**  
2 **Military Family Support Act of 2013.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the United States military sprayed millions of gallons of Agent Orange  
5 and other herbicides on vegetation in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

6 **WHEREAS** Vietnam veterans and their children continue to suffer ill health effects  
7 from exposure to those herbicides; and

8 **WHEREAS** individuals exposed to Agent Orange suffer from Hodgkin's disease,  
9 Parkinson's disease, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, and chronic B-cell leukemia; and

10 **WHEREAS** descendants of individuals exposed to Agent Orange have suffered from  
11 spina bifida and other birth defects; and

12 **WHEREAS** the United States Secretary of Defense should immediately declassify  
13 documents related to known incidents in which individuals were exposed to toxic chemicals  
14 and suffered disability as a result; and

15 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Veterans Affairs should develop a  
16 medical center to serve as the national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of

1 health conditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as  
2 members of the armed forces of the United States; and

3 **WHEREAS** an advisory board should be created to advise that medical center on  
4 health conditions resulting from exposure to toxic substances and to study and evaluate cases  
5 of exposure to toxic substances of current and former members of the armed forces of the  
6 United States; and

7 **WHEREAS** there is a need to establish an office of extramural research to conduct  
8 research on wounds, illnesses, injuries, and other conditions resulting from exposure to toxic  
9 substances suffered by active members of the armed forces of the United States and to assist  
10 the Advisory Board in considering claims of exposure to toxic substances; and

11 **WHEREAS** the federal government should conduct a national outreach and education  
12 campaign directed at members of the armed forces, veterans, and their family members to  
13 educate them about the health conditions resulting from exposure to toxic substances; and

14 **WHEREAS** S. 1602 was introduced in the United States Senate on October 29, 2013,  
15 by Senator Richard Blumenthal; and

16 **WHEREAS** S. 1602 would establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment,  
17 and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances  
18 during service in the armed forces of the United States, provide services to those descendants,  
19 and establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
21 Congress to pass S. 1602, the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of  
22 2013 and to establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health  
23 conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
25 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
26 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of  
27 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the  
28 Honorable Chuck Hagel, United States Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki,  
29 United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Verdie Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans  
30 Affairs, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
31 and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.

1 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.