



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No. 18**

February Session, 2020

LCO No. 2166



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ENACT THE AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE FAIRNESS ACT OF
2019.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

- 1 WHEREAS, Agent Orange was used by the United States military
2 during the Vietnam War;
- 3 WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a potent herbicide that contains a toxic
4 molecule, known as dioxin;
- 5 WHEREAS, many United States military veterans who served in the
6 Vietnam War were exposed to Agent Orange;
- 7 WHEREAS, Agent Orange has been strongly associated with the
8 development of cancer and birth defects in veterans and their children;
- 9 WHEREAS, the likelihood of having a child born with birth defects is
10 approximately one-third greater for veterans who were exposed to
11 Agent Orange than for veterans who were not exposed to Agent Orange;
- 12 WHEREAS, the United States Code sets forth the requirements that

13 must be met in order to grant "presumptions of service connection", or
14 the assumption that a veteran's disability was caused by service in the
15 Vietnam War;

16 WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs currently provides
17 presumptions for the following eight conditions: (1) Non-Hodgkin's
18 lymphoma, (2) Hodgkin's disease, (3) soft-tissue sarcoma (excluding
19 osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, and mesothelioma),
20 (4) respiratory cancers, (5) Diabetes Mellitus (type 2), (6) multiple
21 myeloma, (7) chloracne or other acneform disease, and (8) Porphyria;

22 WHEREAS, the United States Code requires that any veteran
23 suffering from chloracne or other acneform disease or from Porphyria
24 must manifest symptoms of the disease within one year after the end of
25 such veteran's service in the Vietnam War in order to qualify for
26 benefits;

27 WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to the United States Code,
28 known as the Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act of 2019, would
29 remove the time-based requirement for veterans suffering from
30 chloracne or other acneform disease or from Porphyria, allowing
31 veterans to claim compensation regardless of when their conditions
32 began, so long as their conditions are on the approved list and manifests
33 to a degree of disability of ten per cent or more;

34 WHEREAS, Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act of 2019 would add
35 acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy to the list of approved
36 conditions;

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General
38 Assembly calls upon the Congress of the United States to protect
39 veterans exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides during their
40 service in the Vietnam War by enacting the Agent Orange Exposure
41 Fairness Act of 2019; and

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and House
43 cause copies of this resolution to be sent to each member of the

44 Connecticut congressional delegation.