

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2084

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2023

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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—

12 (A) regarding such risk of toxic exposure;

13 and

14 (B) regarding benefits and support pro-
15 grams furnished by the Secretary of Defense
16 (including eligibility requirements and
17 timelines) regarding toxic exposure.

18 (b) PROMOTION.—The Secretary of Defense shall
19 promote the outreach program required under subsection
20 (a) to members of the Armed Forces assigned to work
21 near burn pits by direct mail, email, text messaging, and
22 social media.

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

1 (1) members of the Armed Forces and veterans
2 who experienced toxic exposure in the course of serv-
3 ing as a member of the Armed Forces;

4 (2) dependents and caregivers of such members
5 and veterans; and

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

9 (d) TOXIC EXPOSURE DEFINED.—In this section, the
10 term “toxic exposure” has the meaning given that term
11 in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

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