

House Resolution No. 6026

By Representatives Boldra and Goico

5-18

1 A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to enact and the
2 President of the United States to sign 2015 Senate Bill S. 901, the
3 Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, into law.

4 WHEREAS, Over the years, millions have served our great nation in
5 the armed forces of the United States. During their service, many have
6 been exposed to toxins with unknown consequences. Most of these
7 veterans did not know they were exposed to harmful materials and as a
8 result, suffered from the harmful effects of such toxins; and

9 WHEREAS, Many children and grandchildren of these veterans were
10 born with both structural and nonstructural defects. Some have been
11 accepted for treatment by the United States Department of Veterans
12 Affairs as a result of the toxic exposure associated with their parent's
13 service; and

14 WHEREAS, Birth anomalies in the children of veterans are not
15 tracked as normal birth defects, so the majority of such birth anomalies
16 are unreported, unexplained and not researched; and

17 WHEREAS, Most states that have birth defect registries do not report
18 to a national birth defect registry. Miscarriages and stillbirths are seldom
19 researched for cause and are not tracked on a national registry. Even
20 infant mortality and birth defects of the children of dependents are not
21 tracked or put into a federal registry; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and
23 the United States Department of Defense have been tracking toxic
24 exposures and possible exposures without follow-up research on the
25 veterans and their offspring. 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 would require the
26 United States Secretary of Defense and the United States Secretary of
27 Veterans Affairs to share data regarding toxic exposures; and

28 WHEREAS, Parents of children with birth defects carry a heavy
29 emotional and financial burden. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and
30 its toxic contaminants have reported a variety of serious health problems
31 and symptoms, which include cancers and birth defects in children. The
32 number of Vietnam veterans who have children and grandchildren with
33 birth defects related to exposure to Agent Orange are significant. The
34 research of such birth defects is important for purposes of proper
35 diagnosis, treatment and care of veterans and their families; and

36 WHEREAS, 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 would create a national center

1 within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for the research
2 and the diagnosis of health conditions of the descendants of veterans
3 exposed to toxic substances during their service in the armed forces of the
4 United States. This national center would be monitored by a board of
5 advisors charged with oversight and assessment of the national center.
6 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 would also create a database of birth defects and
7 anomalies, both structural and nonstructural: Now, therefore,

8 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*
9 That we urge the United States Congress to enact and the President of the
10 United States to sign 2015 Senate Bill S. 901, the Toxic Exposure
11 Research Act of 2015, into law; and

12 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of
13 Representatives shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the
14 President of the United States and each member of the Kansas
15 Congressional Delegation.