

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2414

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide priority health care to veterans of the Persian Gulf War who were exposed to environmental hazards.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 1993

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. GUTIERREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide priority health care to veterans of the Persian Gulf War who were exposed to environmental hazards.

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. AUTHORITY FOR PRIORITY INPATIENT CARE**  
4                       **FOR PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS WHO**  
5                       **MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ENVIRON-**  
6                       **MENTAL HAZARDS.**

7       (a) **PRIORITY.**—Section 1710(a)(1)(G) of title 38,  
8       United States Code, is amended by striking out “or radi-  
9       ation” and inserting in lieu thereof “, radiation, or envi-  
10      ronmental hazards”.

1 (b) AUTHORIZED INPATIENT CARE.—Section  
2 1710(e) of such title is amended—

3 (1) by inserting at the end of paragraph (1) the  
4 following new subparagraph:

5 “(C) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this sub-  
6 section, a veteran—

7 “(i) who served on active duty in the theater of  
8 operations during Operation Desert Shield, Oper-  
9 ation Desert Storm, or the Persian Gulf War-era,  
10 and

11 “(ii) who the Secretary finds may have been ex-  
12 posed during such service to environmental hazards  
13 (including, but not limited to, petrochemicals, the  
14 fumes of burning landfills or petrochemicals, phar-  
15 maceuticals or other chemical agents administered  
16 by the Department of Defense, indigenous diseases,  
17 pesticides, and inhalation or ingestion of depleted  
18 uranium or wounds caused by depleted uranium);

19 is eligible for hospital care and nursing home care under  
20 subsection (a)(1)(G) of this section for any disability, not-  
21 withstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to  
22 conclude that such disability may be associated with such  
23 exposure.”; and

1           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking out “subpara-  
2       graph (A) or (B)” and inserting in lieu thereof “sub-  
3       paragraph (A), (B), or (C)”.

4       (c) PERIOD OF AUTHORITY FOR CARE.—Section  
5       1710(e) of such title is further amended by striking out  
6       “September 30, 1993” in paragraph (3) and inserting in  
7       lieu thereof “September 30, 2003”.

8       **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR PRIORITY OUTPATIENT CARE FOR**  
9                               **PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS WHO MAY**  
10                              **HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ENVIRONMENTAL**  
11                              **HAZARDS.**

12       Section 1712(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code,  
13       is amended—

14           (1) by striking out “and” at the end of sub-  
15       paragraph (B).

16           (2) by striking out the period at the end of sub-  
17       paragraph (C) and inserting in lieu thereof “; and”;  
18       and

19           (3) by adding at the end the following:

20           “(D) during the period before October 1, 2003,  
21       for any disability of a veteran who served on active  
22       duty in the theater of operations during Operation  
23       Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, or the Per-  
24       sian Gulf War-era, and who the Secretary finds may  
25       have been exposed during such service to environ-

1        mental hazards (including, but not limited to, petro-  
2        chemicals, the fumes of burning landfills or petro-  
3        chemicals, pharmaceuticals or other chemical agents  
4        administered by the Department of Defense, pes-  
5        ticides, indigenous diseases, and inhalation or inges-  
6        tion of depleted uranium or wounds caused by de-  
7       pleted uranium), notwithstanding that there is insuf-  
8        ficient medical evidence to conclude that the disabil-  
9        ity may be associated with such exposure.”.

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