

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2268

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that certain diseases are covered by the presumption of service connection relating to the exposure to herbicides by certain veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. PORTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that certain diseases are covered by the presumption of service connection relating to the exposure to herbicides by certain veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, 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 “Keeping Our Promises
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITION OF DISEASES TO PRESUMPTION OF**
2 **SERVICE CONNECTION FOR VETERANS EX-**
3 **POSED TO CERTAIN HERBICIDES WHILE**
4 **SERVING IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.**

5 (a) SPECIFIED DISEASES.—Subsection (a)(2) of sec-
6 tion 1116 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by
7 adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

8 “(L) Prostate cancer becoming manifest to a
9 degree of disability of 10 percent or more.

10 “(M) AL amyloidosis becoming manifest to a
11 degree of disability of 10 percent or more.

12 “(N) Early-onset peripheral neuropathy becom-
13 ing manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more with-
14 in one year after the last date on which the veteran
15 was exposed to an herbicide agent during active mili-
16 tary, naval, or air service.

17 “(O) Ischemic heart disease becoming manifest
18 to a degree of disability of 10 percent or more.

19 “(P) Stroke becoming manifest to a degree of
20 disability of 10 percent or more.

21 “(Q) Hypertension becoming manifest to a de-
22 gree of disability of 10 percent or more.”.

23 (b) ADDITIONAL DISEASES.—

24 (1) EXTENSION OF SUNSET.—Subsection (e) of
25 such section 1116 is amended by striking “2015”
26 and inserting “2030”.

1 (2) PROHIBITION OF COST AS FACTOR.—Sub-
2 section (b) of such section 1116 is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

4 “(4) In making determinations for the purpose of this
5 subsection, the Secretary may not take into account the
6 costs to the United States relating to paying compensation
7 under this section pursuant to such determination.”.

8 (3) TIMING AND SUBMISSION OF DETERMINA-
9 TIONS.—Subsection (c)(1) of such section 1116 is
10 amended—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “60
12 days” both places it appears and inserting “120
13 days”; and

14 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

15 (i) by inserting “and submit to the
16 Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the
17 House of Representatives and the Senate”
18 after “publish in the Federal Register”;
19 and

20 (ii) by inserting “, and any other fac-
21 tor that contributed to,” after “scientific
22 basis for”.

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