



DAV BPTLs
Discussion on toxic exposure
Omnibus bills

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Critical Policy Goal

Ensure Veterans Who Were Exposed to Toxic Substances Receive Full and Timely Benefits, Particularly for Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other Known Exposures

OPERATION:
**KEEP THE
PROMISE**

Agenda

1. Update on Veterans Burn Pit Recognition Act
2. The Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act
3. The Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act

Update on Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act



Veterans Burn Pit Recognition Act

S. 437—Introduced by Senators Sullivan & Manchin

- 38 Co-sponsors, more than 1/3 of Senate
- DAV testified on the bill on March 10th and April 28th in the Senate
- 9674 emails sent through DAV CAN

Veterans Burn Pit Recognition Act

H.R. 2436—Introduced by Reps Slotkin & Meijer

- 31 Co-sponsors
- DAV testified on the bill on May 5th
- 5327 emails sent through DAV CAN

Veterans Burn Pit Recognition Act

The bill is also supported in both chambers by more than 8 national VSOs/MSOs

Portions of the bill and its main intent can be found in both of the toxic exposure omnibus bills.



The Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act

The COST of War Act

Introduced by Senator Tester/Chair of SVAC

- Combination of over 14 pieces of legislation in the Senate
- **Expansion of VA healthcare**
 - Veterans with toxic exposure risk activity
 - Veterans exposed to burn pits
 - Medals used as well

The COST of War Act

- **Reforming the Presumptive Process**
 - Toxic Exposure Review Commission
 - Working Group on Presumptives (VA)
- **Burn Pits Presumptive Exposure**
 - Concession of exposure if not a presumptive
 - Same exposures as S 437 and HR 2436
 - Based on medals and locations

The COST of War Act

- **Burn Pits/Toxic Exposure Diseases**
 - 20 diseases mostly respiratory
 - Respiratory cancers of any type
 - Glioblastoma
- **Agent Orange**
 - Add hypertension & MGUS
 - Add Thailand, Cambodia and Laos
 - Guam and American Samoa

The COST of War Act

- **Radiation Risk Activities**
 - Enewetak Atoll clean up 1977-1980
 - Palomares clean up 1966-1967
- **VA requirements**
 - Feasibility study on health care
 - Mandatory training for examiners & claims
 - Will go into effect 18 months after signed

The COST of War Act

- **Studies**
 - Burn Pits
 - Health trends on post 9/11 veterans
 - Cancer rates
- **Record Keeping**
 - ILERs
 - Biannual report
 - Correction of records

The COST of War Act

- Introduced & Passed by SVAC May 26th
- Bill is not available and no number
- DAV Supports
- Preliminary CBO cost est. \$1.5 trillion over 10
- Senator Tester has stated it will not move to the floor for a vote with the consent of RM Moran and the minority

The Honoring our Promise
to Address
Comprehensive Toxics
(PACT) Act



The Pact Act

Some Differences with Cost of War

- **Reforming the Presumptive Process**
 - Formal Toxic Exposure Advisory Committee
 - Science Review Board
 - Working Group on Presumptives (VA)
 - All appointee by the VA Sec

The Pact Act

Some Differences with Cost of War

- **Burn Pits/Toxic Exposure Diseases**
 - 8 additional cancers of any type
 - Head, neck, gastrointestinal, reproductive, lymphoma, Lymphatic, kidney, and melanoma

The Pact Act

Rep. Takano/Chair of HVAC

- Multiple pieces of legislation
- Has NOT been introduced as of today
- DAV Supports
- Cost estimates larger than COST of War
- Most comprehensive toxic exposure bill ever

Recent VA Updates

- Will apply the *Nehmer* provisions to all Blue Water Navy claims
- Will start processing claims for new Agent Orange presumptives
- Considering presumptives diseases for SW Asia
 - Asthma, sinusitis, rhinitis

QUESTIONS





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