

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2015

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 **or 2015**
3 **House Bill H.R. 1769**, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, into
4 law.

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and
24 the United States Department of Defense have been tracking toxic
25 exposures and possible exposures without follow-up research on the
26 veterans and their offspring. 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 **and 2015 House**
27 **Bill H.R. 1769** would require the United States Secretary of Defense and
28 the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs to share data regarding
29 toxic exposures; and

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

1 diagnosis, treatment and care of veterans and their families; and

2 WHEREAS, 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 **and 2015 House Bill H.R. 1769**
3 would create a national center within the United States Department of
4 Veterans Affairs for the research and the diagnosis of health conditions of
5 the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their
6 service in the armed forces of the United States. This national center
7 would be monitored by a board of advisors charged with oversight and
8 assessment of the national center. 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 **and 2015**
9 **House Bill H.R. 1769** would also create a database of birth defects and
10 anomalies, both structural and nonstructural: Now, therefore,

11 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*

12 That we urge the United States Congress to enact and the President of the
13 United States to sign 2015 Senate Bill S. 901 **or 2015 House Bill H.R.**
14 **1769**, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, into law; and

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