

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8430

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish an outreach program to inform members of the Armed Forces, assigned to work near burn pits, of the risks of toxic exposure, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2022

Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish an outreach program to inform members of the Armed Forces, assigned to work near burn pits, of the risks of toxic exposure, 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 “Toxic Exposure Edu-  
5 cation for Servicemembers Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH TO MEMBERS REGARDING POSSIBLE**  
2 **TOXIC EXPOSURE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
5 Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans  
6 Affairs, shall establish—

7 (1) a new risk assessment for toxic exposure for  
8 members of the Armed Forces assigned to work near  
9 burn pits; and

10 (2) an outreach program to inform such mem-  
11 bers regarding such toxic exposure. Such program  
12 shall include information regarding benefits and sup-  
13 port programs furnished by the Secretary (including  
14 eligibility requirements and timelines) regarding  
15 toxic exposure.

16 (b) PROMOTION.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
17 promote the program to members described in subsection  
18 (a) by direct mail, email, text messaging, and social media.

19 (c) PUBLICATION.—Not later than one year after the  
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
21 shall publish on a website of the Department of Defense  
22 a list of resources furnished by the Secretary for—

23 (1) members and veterans who experienced  
24 toxic exposure in the course of serving as a member  
25 of the Armed Forces;

1           (2) dependents and caregivers of such members  
2           and veterans; and

3           (3) survivors of such members and veterans  
4           who receive death benefits under laws administered  
5           by the Secretary.

6           (d) TOXIC EXPOSURE DEFINED.—In this section, the  
7           term “toxic exposure” has the meaning given such term  
8           in section 631 of the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal  
9           Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of  
10          2016 (Public Law 114–315; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note).

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