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**Author**

**Corporate Author**

**Report/Article Title** Senate Bill S. 1616, 99th Congress, 1st Session, To require the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to provide for the Conduct of an Epidemiological Study of the Gender-Specific Effect of Exposure to the Herbicide Known as Agent Orange on Women Veterans of Service in the Republic of Vietnam

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99TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1616

To require the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to provide for the conduct of an epidemiological study of the gender-specific effect of exposure to the herbicide known as Agent Orange on women veterans of service in the Republic of Vietnam.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 10 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 9), 1985

Mr. CRANSTON (for himself, Mr. DeCONCINI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. INOUE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to provide for the conduct of an epidemiological study of the gender-specific effect of exposure to the herbicide known as Agent Orange on women veterans of service in the Republic of Vietnam.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That (a)(1) the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, through  
4 contracts or agreements with private or public agencies or  
5 persons, shall provide for the conduct of an epidemiological  
6 study of any long-term adverse gender-specific health effects  
7 in women of service in the Armed Forces of the United

1 States in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of the  
2 Vietnam conflict as such health effects may result from expo-  
3 sure to—

4 (A) phenoxy herbicides (including the herbicide  
5 known as agent orange); and

6 (B) the class of chemicals known as the dioxins  
7 produced during the manufacture of such herbicides.

8 (2) In providing for the conduct of such study, the Ad-  
9 ministrator may expand the scope of the study to include an  
10 evaluation of any long-term adverse gender-specific health  
11 effects in women of such service as such health effects may  
12 result from other factors involved in such service (including  
13 exposure to other herbicides, chemicals, medications, or envi-  
14 ronmental hazards or conditions).

15 (3) The Administrator may also include in the study an  
16 evaluation of the means of detecting and treating adverse  
17 gender-specific health effects found through the study.

18 (b)(1) The study required by subsection (a) shall be con-  
19 ducted in accordance with a protocol approved by the Direc-  
20 tor of the Office of Technology Assessment.

21 (2) The Director shall monitor the conduct of such study  
22 in order to ensure compliance with such protocol.

23 (3)(A) Concurrent with the approval or disapproval or  
24 any protocol under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit  
25 to the appropriate committees of the Congress a report—

1 (i) explaining the basis for the Director's action in  
2 approving or disapproving the protocol; and

3 (ii) providing the Director's conclusions regarding  
4 the scientific validity and objectivity of the protocol.

5 (B) If the Director has not approved such a protocol  
6 during the one hundred eighty days following the date of the  
7 enactment of this Act, the Director—

8 (i) shall submit to the appropriate committees of  
9 the Congress a report describing the reasons why the  
10 Director has not given such approval; and

11 (ii) shall submit to such committees an update  
12 report on such initial report each sixty days thereafter  
13 until such a protocol is approved.

14 (4) The Director shall submit to the appropriate commit-  
15 tees of the Congress, at each of the times specified in the  
16 second sentence of this paragraph, a report on the Director's  
17 monitoring of the conduct of such study pursuant to para-  
18 graph (2). A report under the preceding sentence shall be  
19 submitted—

20 (A) before the end of the six-month period begin-  
21 ning on the date of the approval of the protocol by the  
22 Director;

23 (B) before the end of the twelve-month period be-  
24 ginning on such date; and

1           (C) annually thereafter until the study is complet-  
2           ed or terminated.

3           (c) The study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall  
4 be continued for as long after the submission of the first  
5 report under subsection (d)(1) as the Administrator may de-  
6 termine reasonable in light of the possibility of developing  
7 through such study significant new information on the long-  
8 term gender-specific adverse health effects in women of expo-  
9 sure to dioxins.

10          (d)(1) Not later than twenty four months after the date  
11 of the approval of the protocol pursuant to subsection (b)(1)  
12 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the  
13 appropriate committees of the Congress a report contain-  
14 ing—

15           (A) a description of the results thus far obtained  
16           under the study conducted pursuant to such subsection;  
17           and

18           (B) such comments and recommendations for ad-  
19           ministrative or legislative action, or both, as the Ad-  
20           ministrator considers appropriate in light of such re-  
21           sults.

22          (2) Not later than ninety days after the submission of  
23 each report under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall pub-  
24 lish in the Federal Register, for public review and comment,  
25 a description of any action that the Administrator proposes to

1 take with respect to programs administered by the Veterans'  
2 Administration. Each such description shall include a justifi-  
3 cation or rationale for any such action the Administrator pro-  
4 poses to take. Any such proposal shall be based on the results  
5 described in the report under paragraph (1) and the com-  
6 ments and recommendations on that report and any other  
7 available pertinent information.

8 (e) For the purposes of this section, the term "gender-  
9 specific health effects in women" includes (1) effects on  
10 female reproductive capacity and reproductive organs, (2) re-  
11 productive outcomes, (3) effects on female-specific organs and  
12 tissues, and (4) other effects unique to the physiology of fe-  
13 males.

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