

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 46

Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier

May 1, 2014

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 46—Relative to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 46, as amended, Frazier. Birth anomalies: children of veterans.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to pass, and the United States President to sign into law, Senate Bill 1602, and the House of Representatives to write and pass a companion bill, 1602 and House Resolution 4816 and would encourage the members of the California Congressional Delegation to join as coauthors on the bill.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Over the years millions have served our great
2 nation in the Armed Forces of the United States. During their
3 service many have been exposed to toxins with unknown
4 consequences. Most of these veterans did not know they were
5 exposed to harmful materials, with many of these veterans suffering
6 from the harmful effects of these toxins; and

7 WHEREAS, Many children and grandchildren of these veterans
8 were born with both structural and nonstructural defects. Some
9 have been accepted by the United States Department of Veterans
10 Affairs as a result of the exposures from their parent's service; and

11 WHEREAS, Birth anomalies in the children of veterans are not
12 tracked as normal birth defects, so most go unreported,
13 unexplained, and not researched. These anomalies have some

1 similarities but follow mostly unreported and under researched
2 paths; and

3 WHEREAS, Most states that have birth defect registries do not
4 report to a national registry. Miscarriages and still births are seldom
5 researched for cause, these are not tracked on a national registry.
6 Even death and defects at military hospitals relating to the children
7 of dependants are not tracked or not put into a federal registry; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
9 and the Department of Defense have been tracking toxic exposures
10 and possible exposures without followup research on the veterans
11 and their offspring; and

12 WHEREAS, Parents of children with birth defects carry a heavy
13 emotional and financial burden. Veterans that have been exposed
14 to toxins normally have a shorter lifespan than others of their
15 generation. Someone will need to cover costs and care for the
16 children left behind; and

17 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1602 *and its companion bill House*
18 *Resolution 4816* would create a center of excellence to test, study,
19 and find solutions to the illnesses and anomalies affecting the
20 children of veterans from all era's and duty stations. This center
21 would be created within the United States Department of Veteran
22 Affairs and monitored by committees to ensure transparency.
23 Senate Bill 1602 *and House Resolution 4816* would also create a
24 database of birth defects and anomalies both structural and
25 nonstructural; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
27 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature respectfully urges the
28 United States Congress to pass, and the United States President to
29 sign into law, Senate Bill 1602, ~~and the House of Representatives~~
30 ~~to write and pass a companion bill~~, *1602 and House Resolution*
31 *4816* and encourages the members of the California Congressional
32 Delegation to join as coauthors on the ~~bill~~; *bills*; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
35 States and to the members of the United States Congress.

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