



HR0060

LRB101 07689 ALS 53168 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Many veterans in Illinois and across the United
3 States have committed their lives to protecting our nation and
4 its interest; and

5 WHEREAS, In pursuit of that service, veterans who served in
6 the vicinity of Vietnam and Thailand from January 9, 1962 to
7 May 7, 1975 and in the Korean demilitarized zone from September
8 1, 1967 to August 31, 1971 were exposed to a chemical known as
9 "Agent Orange"; and

10 WHEREAS, Agent Orange is an herbicide that is known for its
11 use by the United States military as part of its warfare
12 program; and

13 WHEREAS, Agent Orange was sprayed on more than 12,000
14 square miles of Vietnam, nearly ten percent of the country; and

15 WHEREAS, The chemical found its way into inland and
16 offshore water, and to this day the most heavily contaminated
17 areas are the 28 remaining U.S. air bases where the chemicals
18 were stored; and

19 WHEREAS, Up to four million people were exposed to the
20 chemical and as many as three million of those exposed have

1 reported health problems, including birth defects, mental
2 disabilities, and cancers; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1978, the United States Army buried 250 drums
4 of Agent Orange in the Korean demilitarized zone; and

5 WHEREAS, Veterans who served in or near the Korean
6 demilitarized zone have also received treatment for a disease
7 associated with Agent Orange exposure during their service in
8 Korea; and

9 WHEREAS, In January 2017, H.R. 299 was introduced in the
10 United States Congress to expand the presumption of service
11 connection for certain diseases associated with herbicide
12 exposure related to veterans who served in the Republic of
13 Vietnam and the Korean demilitarized zone for treatment
14 purposes; and

15 WHEREAS, H.R. 299 passed the house, but it stalled in the
16 Senate; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we urge Congress to pass legislation in support of the
20 expansion of the presumptions for Agent Orange exposure for
21 veteran treatment purposes; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the President of the United States, the U.S.
3 Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the
4 U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of Representatives
5 Minority Leader, and all members of the Illinois Congressional
6 Delegation.