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**Description Notes** Includes cover letter from James D. Driscoll to the United States Veterans Administration (VA), September 8, 1983

*Assembly  
California Legislature*



JAMES D. DRISCOLL  
CHIEF CLERK

September 8, 1983

United States Veterans' Administration  
Department of Medicine and Surgery  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Gentlemen:

I have been directed to invite your attention to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 48, relative to veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Accordingly, I am enclosing a copy of this resolution for your information.

Very truly yours,

*James D. Driscoll*  
JAMES D. DRISCOLL  
Chief Clerk

JDD:mk  
Enclosure

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 48

10A7

Adopted in Assembly June 30, 1983

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

Adopted in Senate August 30, 1983

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate*

This resolution was received by the Secretary of  
State this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1983,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Deputy Secretary of State*

## RESOLUTION CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 48—Relative to veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 48, Nolan. Vietnam veterans: Agent Orange exposure.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to support and enact legislation directing the United States Veterans' Administration to pay compensation to an estimated 3,000 Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during service in Vietnam and who suffer from liver disorders, skin conditions, and soft-tissue cancer.

WHEREAS, The United States Veterans' Administration has recently announced that it is opposed to any proposal to grant compensation to any of the approximately 3,000 Vietnam veterans suffering illnesses that may be related to their exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange during their Vietnam duty more than a decade ago; and

WHEREAS, This defoliant chemical was sprayed extensively by United States forces in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971 to kill jungle growth concealing enemy movements, and its long-term effects were then unknown; and

WHEREAS, Extensive studies have shown a causal relationship between dioxin, a major component of Agent Orange, and three illnesses—a liver disorder, a skin condition, and a soft-tissue cancer; and

WHEREAS, This unreasonable attitude toward these 3,000 ill veterans is inconsistent with the government's recent decision to award compensation to the residents of Times Beach, Missouri, who have suffered dioxin contamination; and

WHEREAS, Legislation is pending before Congress which would award compensation, based on severity of illness, to these 3,000 suffering veterans; now, therefore,

be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to support and enact legislation directing the United States Veterans' Administration to pay compensation to the estimated 3,000 Vietnam veterans who suffer from liver disorders, skin conditions, and soft-tissue cancer having a strong correlation to exposure to Agent Orange during their service in Vietnam; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the United States Veterans' Administration fulfill the intent of the Starbuck Memorandum dated April 3, 1980, which states that "given the considerable uncertainties as to the disposition of defoliants in Southeast Asia and troop positions at pertinent times, the Veterans' Administration will accept, in the absence of positive evidence to the contrary, a Vietnam Veteran's Contention of Exposure," and with all due and deliberate speed will provide physical examinations to those veterans exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the United States Veterans' Administration.