



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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November 7, 2018

The Honorable Joe Courtney
United States House of Representatives
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Courtney:

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for H.R. 6566 – *the Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act*, as currently written.

Manifest periods required for presumptions of service-connected disabilities create avoidable legal struggles for veterans exposed to certain herbicide agents in Korea from 1968-1971, and Vietnam from 1961-1971. Unreasonable and punitive onset dates result in the loss of earned disability compensation, and in some cases, medical treatment for veterans. Removal of the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, as well as acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy ensures veterans who were exposed to these chemicals are provided with the benefits and healthcare they deserve.

We support legislation to remove the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service-connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, as well as acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, to award earned benefits and treatment for Agent Orange-exposed veterans through American Legion Resolution No. 18: *Amend Set Dates of Agent Orange Illness*.

The American Legion supports passage of H.R. 6566 – *the Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act* and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

For God and Country,

Brett P. Reistad
National Commander
The American Legion