

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3051

To direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, or its successor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide assistance for individuals affected by exposure to Agent Orange, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2025

Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. SIMON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. MCBRIDE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, or its successor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide assistance for individuals affected by exposure to Agent Orange, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Victims of Agent Or-
5 ange Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:

4 (1) From 1961 to 1971, approximately
5 19,000,000 gallons of 15 different herbicides were
6 sprayed over the southern region of Vietnam by the
7 United States military.

8 (2) The herbicides included 13,000,000 gallons
9 of Agent Orange, 4,500,000 gallons of Agent White,
10 1,000,000 gallons of Agent Blue, 420,000 gallons of
11 Agent Purple, and relatively smaller quantities of
12 the other herbicides. Many of the herbicides, includ-
13 ing Agents Orange, Purple, Green, Pink, Dinoxol,
14 and Trinoxol, contained the toxic contaminant dioxin
15 (TCDD). Agent Blue contained high levels of ar-
16 senic. The 15 herbicides, including the contaminant
17 dioxin, are usually collectively referred to as Agent
18 Orange.

19 (3) Between 1961 and 1971, nearly 20,000
20 spraying missions were carried out in an area of
21 about 12,600,000 hectares. This represented about
22 12 percent of South Vietnam and portions of Laos
23 and Cambodia. These amounts only account for the
24 United States Air Force Operation Ranch Hand
25 spraying and do not include the widespread use of
26 Agent Orange by the Army Chemical Corps, Central

1 Intelligence Agency, and South Vietnamese Govern-
2 ment.

3 (4) Studies have found that between 2,100,000
4 and 4,800,000 Vietnamese, Lao, and Cambodian
5 people and tens of thousands of Americans were ex-
6 posed to Agent Orange during the spraying oper-
7 ations. Many other Vietnamese people were or con-
8 tinue to be exposed to Agent Orange through con-
9 tact with the environment and food that was con-
10 taminated. Many offspring of those who were ex-
11 posed have birth defects, developmental disabilities,
12 and other diseases.

13 (5) Today, there are still dozens of herbicide
14 hotspots that continue to contaminate the food, soil,
15 sediment, livestock, and wildlife with Agent Orange.
16 Concentrations of TCDD as high as 1,000 mg/kg
17 have been found in soil and sediment samples more
18 than 50 years after Agent Orange was sprayed in
19 Vietnam.

20 (6) Since 2007, the United States has provided
21 assistance to Vietnam in remediating Agent Orange
22 contamination at the largest of these hotspots, which
23 are the airbases that handled the spray missions.
24 The contamination at the Da Nang Airport has been
25 fully cleaned up, and the United States has com-

1 mitted funds to contribute to cleaning up the Bien
2 Hoa Airbase, which has the most wide-spread herbi-
3 cide contamination in Vietnam. There are at least
4 two dozen other smaller hotspots scattered through-
5 out southern and central Vietnam that also must be
6 remediated, since they continue to expose local popu-
7 lations to dioxin and arsenic.

8 (7) Agent Orange exposure continues to nega-
9 tively affect the lives of veterans of the United
10 States Armed Forces, Vietnamese people, Viet-
11 namese Americans, and their children. The lives of
12 many victims are cut short, and others live with dis-
13 ease, disabilities, and pain, which are often un-
14 treated or unrecognized.

15 (8) The Department of Veterans Affairs recog-
16 nizes 19 illnesses and diseases, including AL amyloi-
17 dosis, bladder cancer, chronic B- cell leukemia,
18 chloraene, diabetes mellitus type 2, high blood pres-
19 sure (hypertension), Hodgkin's disease,
20 hypothyroidism, ischemic heart disease, monoclonal
21 gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS),
22 multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Par-
23 kinson's disease, Parkinsonism, acute and sub-acute
24 peripheral neuropathy, porphyria cutanea tarda,
25 prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, and soft-tissue

1 sarcomas associated with the spraying and use of
2 Agent Orange by the United States Armed Forces
3 during the Vietnam era.

4 (9) No similar recognition has been given to af-
5 fected Vietnamese or Vietnamese Americans.

6 (10) The Department of Veterans Affairs pro-
7 vides compensation for many severe birth defects
8 among the children of United States women veterans
9 who served in Vietnam. The list of birth defects cov-
10 ered includes, but is not limited to, achondroplasia,
11 cleft lip, cleft palate, congenital heart disease, con-
12 genital talipes equinovarus (clubfoot), esophageal
13 and intestinal atresia, Hallerman-Streiff syndrome,
14 hip dysplasia, Hirschsprung's disease (congenital
15 megacolon), hydrocephalus due to aqueductal ste-
16 nosis, hypospadias, imperforate anus, neural tube
17 defects, Poland syndrome, pyloric stenosis,
18 syndactyly (fused digits), tracheoesophageal fistula,
19 undescended testes, and Williams syndrome. Af-
20 fected children of these women veterans receive med-
21 ical care and other benefits. However, the care and
22 compensation provided by the Department of Vet-
23 erans Affairs to the covered children of United
24 States veterans is insufficient to meet their needs re-
25 lated to Agent Orange.

1 (11) The only birth defect recognized for the
2 children of male American veterans is spina bifida
3 (but not occulta). However, many children of male
4 Vietnam war veterans have the same range of birth
5 defects and diseases as seen in the children of fe-
6 male Vietnam war veterans. This discrepancy results
7 in most Agent Orange affected children of United
8 States veterans receiving no care or benefits.

9 (12) No assistance has been given to the chil-
10 dren of male or female Vietnamese or Vietnamese
11 Americans connected with their exposure, or their
12 parents' or grandparents' exposure.

13 (13) The Institute of Medicine for the past sev-
14 eral years has noted that “it is considerably more
15 plausible than previously believed that exposure to
16 the herbicides sprayed in Vietnam might have
17 caused paternally mediated transgenerational effects
18 attributable to the TCCD contaminant in Agent Or-
19 ange”. In recent years, scientific studies have identi-
20 fied likely epigenetic links between exposure to tox-
21 ins and birth defects and developmental disorders in
22 subsequent generations. Some of the children and
23 grandchildren of exposed persons (Americans, Viet-
24 namese, and Vietnamese Americans) who were in
25 southern Vietnam during the Vietnam war era likely

1 suffer from disorders, birth defects, and illnesses re-
2 lated to Agent Orange.

3 (14) The assistance that the United States has
4 provided for environmental remediation of contami-
5 nation at the Da Nang and Bien Hoa airports has,
6 in recent years, included funds for public health and
7 disabilities activities for individuals residing in some
8 affected areas.

9 (15) Laos and Cambodia were also sprayed
10 with Agent Orange during the Vietnam war era. At
11 least 527,000 gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed
12 in Laos and significant amounts were also sprayed
13 in Cambodia. Affected Lao and Cambodian people
14 over several generations suffer from medical condi-
15 tions, birth defects, and disabilities similar to those
16 seen in Vietnam and the United States. The United
17 States has the responsibility to take action to miti-
18 gate and provide compensation for those effects.
19 Further action will be needed to ascertain and effec-
20 tively address this legacy of the Vietnam war.

21 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ad-
22 dress and remediate the ongoing damage that arose or will
23 continue to arise from the use of Agent Orange during
24 the Vietnam war.

1 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY**
2 **HEALTH ISSUES RELATED TO EXPOSURE TO**
3 **AGENT ORANGE.**

4 (a) **FOR COVERED INDIVIDUALS.**—The Adminis-
5 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
6 velopment, or its successor, in coordination with the heads
7 of other appropriate Federal agencies and nongovern-
8 mental organizations, shall provide assistance to address
9 the health care needs of covered individuals. Such assist-
10 ance may include the provision of medical and chronic care
11 services, nursing services, vocational employment training,
12 and medical equipment.

13 (b) **FOR CAREGIVERS.**—The Administrator of the
14 United States Agency for International Development, or
15 its successor, in coordination with the heads of other ap-
16 propriate Federal agencies and nongovernmental organi-
17 zations, shall provide assistance to institutions in Vietnam
18 that provide health care for covered individuals. Such as-
19 sistance may include—

- 20 (1) medicines and medical equipment;
- 21 (2) custodial care, home care, respite care, and
22 daycare programs;
- 23 (3) training programs for caregivers;
- 24 (4) medical and physical rehabilitation, and
25 counseling services and equipment for illnesses and

1 deformities associated with exposure to Agent Or-
2 ange; and

3 (5) reconstructive surgical programs.

4 (c) FOR HOUSING AND POVERTY REDUCTION.—The
5 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
6 national Development, or its successor, in coordination
7 with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies and
8 nongovernmental organizations shall provide—

9 (1) assistance to institutions in Vietnam that
10 repair and rebuild substandard homes in Vietnam
11 for covered individuals and the families of covered
12 individuals; and

13 (2) micro grants and loans to facilitate subsist-
14 ence payments and poverty reduction for covered in-
15 dividuals and families of covered individuals.

16 (d) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
18 United States Agency for International Develop-
19 ment, or its successor, in coordination with the
20 heads of other appropriate Federal agencies and
21 nongovernmental organizations shall provide assist-
22 ance to remediate those geographic areas of Vietnam
23 that the Secretary determines contain high levels of
24 Agent Orange.

1 (2) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under
2 this subsection, the Administrator shall give priority
3 to heavily sprayed areas, including areas that served
4 as military bases where Agent Orange was handled,
5 and areas where heavy spraying, spills, or air crash-
6 es resulted in harmful deposits of Agent Orange.

7 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES.—The Adminis-
8 trator shall—

9 (1) provide assistance under this section (other
10 than assistance under subsection (d)) through ap-
11 propriate Vietnamese community and nongovern-
12 mental organizations and Vietnamese public agen-
13 cies;

14 (2) provide assistance under this section to af-
15 fected persons in all areas of Vietnam, including
16 rural, mountainous, and urban areas; and

17 (3) seek out and actively encourage other bilat-
18 eral donors as well as United States and foreign
19 business enterprises in Vietnam to support the goals
20 of this section through development assistance and
21 corporate philanthropy programs.

22 (f) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
23 tion, the term “covered individual” means an individual
24 who—

25 (1) is a resident of Vietnam; and

1 (2)(A) is affected by health issues related to ex-
2 posure to Agent Orange which took place during the
3 period beginning on January 1, 1961, and ending on
4 May 7, 1975, or who lives or has lived in or near
5 those geographic areas in Vietnam that continue to
6 contain high levels of Agent Orange as described in
7 subsection (d); or

8 (B) is the child or descendant of an individual
9 described in subparagraph (A), and is affected by
10 health issues described in subparagraph (A).

11 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

12 **HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND ASSISTANCE FOR**
13 **VIETNAMESE AMERICANS.**

14 (a) **HEALTH ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary of Health
15 and Human Services shall make grants to appropriate
16 public health organizations and Vietnamese American or-
17 ganizations for the purpose of conducting a broad health
18 assessment of Vietnamese Americans who may have been
19 exposed to Agent Orange and their children or descend-
20 ants to determine the effects to their health of such expo-
21 sure.

22 (b) **ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of Health and
23 Human Services shall establish centers in locations in the
24 United States where large populations of Vietnamese
25 Americans reside for the purpose of providing assessment,

1 counseling, and treatment for conditions related to expo-
2 sure to Agent Orange. The Secretary may carry out this
3 subsection through appropriate community and non-
4 governmental organizations or other suitable organiza-
5 tions, as determined by the Secretary.

6 **SEC. 5. DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency
9 for International Development, or its successor, and the
10 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall each com-
11 plete a plan for the implementation of the provisions of
12 this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, that are
13 applicable to such Secretary and shall issue a request for
14 proposals, if applicable. The Administrator of the United
15 States Agency for International Development, or its suc-
16 cessor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services
17 shall each implement the applicable provisions of this Act
18 by not later than 18 months after the date of enactment
19 of this Act.

20 **SEC. 6. QUARTERLY REPORTS.**

21 Not later than 30 days after the last day of each fis-
22 cal quarter beginning on or after 18 months after the date
23 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United
24 States Agency for International Development, or its suc-
25 cessor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services

1 shall each submit to Congress a report on the implementa-
2 tion of the provisions of this Act applicable to such Sec-
3 retary during the immediately preceding fiscal quarter.

4 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION.**

5 For purposes of this Act, the term “Agent Orange”
6 includes any chemical compound which became part, ei-
7 ther by design or through impurities, of an herbicide agent
8 used in support of the United States and allied military
9 operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

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