

House Joint Memorial 1

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to enact legislation concerning health effects caused by exposure to depleted uranium.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the United States routinely uses depleted uranium in its armaments; and

Whereas depleted uranium is primarily composed of the isotope uranium-238, a radioactive material; and

Whereas when used in defensive armor plating and armor piercing projectiles, depleted uranium emits alpha, beta and gamma radiation; and

Whereas United States service members have been exposed to depleted uranium on battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas a tribunal in the United Kingdom has attributed birth defects to depleted uranium exposure and studies indicate the potential for leukemia and other serious health effects caused by exposure to depleted uranium; and

Whereas the United States government has not acknowledged the health effects on United States service members caused by exposure to depleted uranium; and

Whereas in the past the United States government did not recognize the health effects of Agent Orange and other defoliants until sufficient studies were completed; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that:

(a) Implements a long term study of the health effects on service members caused by exposure to depleted uranium; and

(b) Specifies that if a correlation exists between depleted uranium and health conditions, those conditions become presumptive conditions for disability compensation through the Veterans Benefits Administration.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.