

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 145**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes President and Congress to expand certain benefits to grandchildren of veterans impacted by Agent Orange.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the President and
 2 Congress of the United States to expand certain benefits to the
 3 grandchildren of veterans impacted by Agent Orange.

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 5 **WHEREAS**, Spina Bifida is a spinal cord defect often requiring
 6 extensive life-long medical care and may cause health issues
 7 leading to disability such as paralysis, walking and mobility
 8 problems, nerve damage, bowel and bladder issues, and
 9 hydrocephalus, among others; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Evidence indicates that exposure to “Agent Orange”, a
 11 herbicide extensively used during the Korean and Vietnam Wars,
 12 may lead to Spina Bifida in the children of veterans who were
 13 exposed to the toxin and the United States Congress has
 14 acknowledged the connection through the enactment of the “Agent
 15 Orange Benefits Act of 1996”; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Benefits provided by the “Agent Orange Benefits Act of
 17 1996” include a monthly monetary allowance, a vocational
 18 program, counseling and rehabilitative services, employment
 19 services, and health care benefits which have improved the lives of
 20 the children of veterans who were born with Spina Bifida; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Recent evidence indicates that the grandchildren of
 22 veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange also suffer from
 23 elevated incidences of Spina Bifida, but these children are not
 24 eligible for the benefits provided in the “Agent Orange Benefits Act
 25 of 1996”; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Expanding benefits to the grandchildren of eligible
 27 veterans who suffer from Spina Bifida would greatly alleviate the
 28 financial burden caused by medical costs associated with treatment
 29 of the condition and enable them to further their careers through the
 30 additional educational and employment services afforded to them;
 31 and

32 **WHEREAS**, Spina Bifida is a life-long debilitating disease affecting
 33 both the children and grandchildren of Korean and Vietnam War
 34 veterans exposed to Agent Orange and the benefits provided to
 35 veterans’ children by the “Agent Orange Benefits Act of 1996”
 36 should be expanded to include the grandchildren of these veterans
 37 now, therefore,

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 39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
 40 *General Assembly concurring):*

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 42 1. The President and Congress of the United States are
 43 respectfully memorialized to expand the scope of the “Agent
 44 Orange Benefits Act of 1996” to include individuals diagnosed with
 45 Spina Bifida who are grandchildren of certain veterans of the
 46 United States Armed Forces

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