



# TESTER LEADERSHIP ON TOXIC EXPOSURE

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester has worked tirelessly to ensure that all veterans and servicemembers exposed to harmful toxins during their military service have prompt access to the benefits and health care they need. Chairman Tester will continue to fight so that our men and women in uniform never face uncertainty when it comes to the proper documentation of their toxic exposures and their eligibility for critical care and benefits.

## TESTER LEADERSHIP ON BEHALF OF THOSE IN UNIFORM

- Wrote, introduced, negotiated, and passed the **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act**, which changed the law to guarantee veterans who served off the shores of Vietnam and were exposed to Agent Orange could access health care and benefits related to their exposure.
- Wrote, introduced, negotiated, and passed critical provisions of the **Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020**, which ensures that the over 40,000 veterans suffering from Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism — conditions scientifically related to Agent Orange exposure — get the care and benefits they need and deserve.
- Introduced, negotiated, and passed the **Fairness for Korean DMZ Veterans Act of 2019**, which will extend the presumption-of-exposure dates for veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone during the Korean War, making them eligible to receive critical care for Agent Orange and other chemical exposures.
- Introduced, negotiated, and passed the **Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act**, requiring the Department of Defense to track and record any potential Occupational Environmental Health exposure of current servicemembers and veterans.
- Introduced, negotiated, and passed the **Forgotten Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020**, changing the definition of "Vietnam era" to begin on November 1, 1955, to align with the official U.S. involvement in the war, and makes these veterans eligible for wartime benefits, including veteran's pension and healthcare.
- Wrote, negotiated, and passed legislation that ensures servicemembers and veterans are able to access, through an online portal, their Individual Longitudinal Exposure Records, which track service-related exposures to toxic substances.
- Led a roundtable discussion with Senator Moran, stakeholders, and veterans' advocates to address longstanding issues associated with the effects of toxic exposures on our nation's servicemembers and veterans.
- Introduced the **Janey Ensminger Act of 2019**, which would ensure that individuals with diseases specifically linked to toxic exposure at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina receive proper medical care from VA.

## HOLDING VA ACCOUNTABLE

- Repeatedly pushed the VA to respond to the National Academy of Medicine's recommendation to add certain presumptive medical conditions for veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.
- Led 41 Democratic Senators in a letter to President Trump that condemned the Administration for continuously stonewalling access to critical benefits for veterans suffering from health conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure.
- Demanded answers from VA as to why a stay on Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans' claims was imposed and requested that VA provide timely benefits and care to these veterans who already waited long enough.