



HR0155

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Depleted uranium is the matter left over when most of the highly radioactive types of uranium are removed for use as nuclear fuel or nuclear weapons; and

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WHEREAS, The United States Military uses tank armor and some bullets made with depleted uranium to penetrate enemy armored vehicles; and

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WHEREAS, The manufacturing of enriched uranium from natural uranium used in reactors or weapons leaves behind "depleted" uranium; and

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WHEREAS, Depleted uranium has 40% less radioactivity, but the exact same chemical toxicity as natural uranium; and

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WHEREAS, When a projectile containing depleted uranium penetrates a vehicle, small pieces of the uranium can become embedded in muscle and soft tissue; and

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WHEREAS, Servicemembers exposed to depleted uranium may have also inhaled or swallowed small airborne particles of depleted uranium; and

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WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of

1 Veterans Affairs, some veterans of the Gulf War, Operation
2 Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New
3 Dawn may have been exposed to depleted uranium as a result of
4 being in or near a vehicle that was hit by friendly fire,
5 entering or being near burning vehicles, being near fires
6 involving depleted uranium munitions, or from salvaging
7 damaged vehicles; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
9 Veterans Affairs, no health problems associated with depleted
10 uranium exposure have been found in veterans exposed to it; and

11 WHEREAS, Many servicemembers who believed they were
12 exposed to depleted uranium have gone overseas for a more
13 sophisticated urine test to detect for exposure; and

14 WHEREAS, Pfc. Aaron Barnes of Fulton County served in Iraq
15 for 26 months and became ill a year after his 2nd deployment;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Tests were performed which showed a large mass on
18 his kidney; he told doctors at the Iowa City VA Hospital that
19 he believed it was a result of exposure to depleted uranium
20 during his deployments in Iraq; after being told that the mass
21 was not a result of depleted uranium exposure, he was sent home
22 without a biopsy or additional testing; after having the mass

1 removed from his kidney, a biopsy showed a rare cancer had
2 developed; and

3 WHEREAS, Pfc. Barnes began chemotherapy treatment
4 following the removal of the mass from his kidney; he passed
5 away on August 24, 2011, leaving behind his wife, Mandy, and 2
6 children, Emma and David; and

7 WHEREAS, Servicemembers who believe they were exposed to
8 depleted uranium have had a difficult time in the VA system
9 while being tested and treated for exposure; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 urge the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois
13 Department of Veterans' Affairs to thoroughly study the effects
14 of depleted uranium exposure on Illinois servicemembers and
15 veterans; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 presented to the Director of the Illinois Department of Public
18 Health and the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans'
19 Affairs.