

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2365

To provide for a study of the health consequences for the spouses and descendants of atomic veterans of the exposure of such veterans to ionizing radiation.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 1994

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. SIMON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide for a study of the health consequences for the spouses and descendants of atomic veterans of the exposure of such veterans to ionizing radiation.

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. STUDY OF HEALTH CONSEQUENCES FOR FAM-**  
4 **ILY MEMBERS OF ATOMIC VETERANS OF EX-**  
5 **POSURE OF ATOMIC VETERANS TO IONIZING**  
6 **RADIATION.**

7 (a) AGREEMENT FOR STUDY.—The Secretary of Vet-  
8 erans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of De-  
9 fense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services,

1 shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Medical  
2 Follow-up Agency of the Institute of Medicine of the Na-  
3 tional Academy of Sciences under which agreement the  
4 agency shall carry out the study described in subsection  
5 (c).

6 (b) ALTERNATIVE ORGANIZATION.—If the Secretary  
7 is unable within a reasonable period of time (as deter-  
8 mined by the Secretary) to enter into an agreement with  
9 the agency referred to in subsection (a) to carry out the  
10 study required under that subsection, the Secretary shall  
11 seek to enter into an agreement to carry out the study  
12 with another appropriate organization or entity that—

13 (1) is not part of the Government;

14 (2) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

15 (3) has an expertise and objectivity comparable  
16 to that of the agency referred to in subsection (a).

17 (c) NATURE OF STUDY.—The purpose of the study  
18 referred to in subsection (a) is to determine the nature  
19 and extent, if any, of the relationship between the expo-  
20 sure of veterans described in subsection (d) to ionizing ra-  
21 diation and the following:

22 (1) Genetic defects and illnesses in the children  
23 and grandchildren of such veterans.

1           (2) Untoward pregnancy outcomes experienced  
2           by the spouses of such veterans, including stillbirths,  
3           miscarriages, and neonatal deaths.

4           (d) COVERED VETERANS.—Subsection (c) applies  
5 to—

6           (1) any veteran who was exposed (as deter-  
7           mined by the Secretary) to ionizing radiation as a  
8           result of—

9                   (A) participation while on active duty in  
10                  the Armed Forces in an atmospheric nuclear  
11                  test that included the detonation of a nuclear  
12                  device;

13                   (B) service in the Armed Forces with the  
14                  United States occupation force of Hiroshima or  
15                  Nagasaki, Japan, before July 1, 1946; or

16                   (C) internment or detention as a prisoner  
17                  of war of Japan before that date in cir-  
18                  cumstances providing the opportunity for expo-  
19                  sure to ionizing radiation comparable to the ex-  
20                  posure of individuals who served with such oc-  
21                  cupation force before that date; and

22           (2) any other veteran that the Secretary des-  
23           ignates for coverage under the study.

24           (e) REPORT.—Not later than each of March 1, 1995,  
25           October 1, 1995, October 1, 1996, and October 1, 1997,

1 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'  
2 Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives  
3 a report on the results of the study carried out under this  
4 section.

5 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
7 essary to carry out the study required under this section.

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