

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

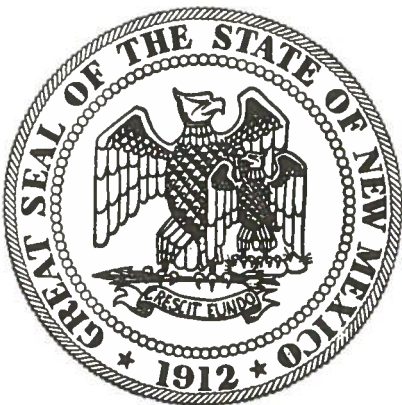
CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS A. ANDERSON AND
REPRESENTATIVE TERRY H. McMILLAN

REPRESENTATIVE ANDY NUÑEZ



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO
3 STUDY THE EFFECTS OF DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE ON SOLDIERS AND
4 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO NATIONAL GUARD TO RENEW EFFORTS TO
5 LOCATE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
6 EXPOSED TO DEPLETED URANIUM.

7
8 WHEREAS, the United States armed forces and the armed
9 forces of many nations use depleted uranium in various forms
10 of ordnance and armor; and

11 WHEREAS, because of its ubiquitous use by the armed
12 forces, many service members have been unknowingly exposed to
13 depleted uranium; and

14 WHEREAS, the normal function of the body's vital organs,
15 including the kidneys, brain, liver and heart, can be
16 adversely affected by exposure to uranium; and

17 WHEREAS, depleted uranium poses a particular risk of
18 exposure because of its long half-life; and

19 WHEREAS, the aerosol produced during the impact and
20 combustion of depleted uranium could contaminate wide areas
21 around impact sites, resulting in exposure to troops who are
22 in such an exposure zone; and

23 WHEREAS, there have been reports indicating that
24 military personnel are at particular risk of inhaling uranium
25 dust; and

1 WHEREAS, because of the nature of the dispersal of
2 depleted uranium in combat situations, many soldiers may not
3 realize that they have been exposed to depleted uranium, and
4 thus are at risk of serious illness because of that exposure;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, certain studies have indicated that there may
7 be an increased rate of birth defects among the children of
8 military personnel who have been exposed to depleted uranium;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, studies have also documented the effects of
11 depleted uranium on the health of household members of
12 returning troops, as the depleted uranium can be transmitted
13 through intimate contact or through contact with contaminated
14 dust on the service member's belongings; and

15 WHEREAS, high concentrations of depleted uranium
16 exposure could cause significant health issues among members
17 of the armed forces, their loved ones and their families; and

18 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over three hundred forty
19 tons of depleted uranium munitions were used in the 1991
20 Persian Gulf War, one to two thousand tons of depleted uranium
21 munitions were used in the 2003 Gulf War and the nation's
22 service members are still exposed to depleted uranium in
23 Afghanistan and other conflicts;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university

1 of New Mexico school of medicine be requested to study what
2 physiological effects there might be on service members who
3 have been exposed to depleted uranium while serving their
4 country, including requiring university medical staff to
5 collect data on the numbers of patients with cases related to
6 depleted uranium exposure; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico
8 school of health be requested to include the diagnosis of
9 illnesses related to depleted uranium exposure as a part of
10 their curriculum training; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico national
12 guard be requested to renew its efforts to locate military
13 personnel who have been exposed to depleted uranium; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to office of the dean of the university of New
16 Mexico school of medicine and the adjutant general of the New
17 Mexico national guard.



BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES