

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 211**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 15, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)**

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.

4  
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,

38  
39 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
40 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

41  
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.

1       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
3 Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the  
4 United States; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United  
5 States Senate; the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States  
6 House of Representatives; and every member of the New Jersey  
7 Congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

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12       This concurrent resolution memorializes the President and  
13 Congress to provide the grandchildren with Spina Bifida of  
14 veterans exposed to Agent Orange the same benefits as the children  
15 with Spina Bifida of veterans exposed to Agent Orange as provided  
16 by the “Agent Orange Benefits Act of 1996”.

17       Grandchildren of Vietnam and Korean War veterans who are  
18 negatively affected by their grandparent’s service through the  
19 acquiring of diseases caused by Agent Orange such as Spina Bifida  
20 will have limited support in managing the consequences of their  
21 illness unless provided the same benefits as the children of veterans  
22 with the same affliction. Spina Bifida is a life-long debilitating  
23 disease that can cause numerous serious health issues. The  
24 expansion of benefits to include grandchildren of these veterans  
25 will alleviate the financial burden of the disease and provide  
26 valuable services such as counseling, education, and employment  
27 services. The United States of America has greatly benefitted from  
28 the service of all veterans and owes its support to the grandchildren  
29 of veterans afflicted by diseases linked to military service.