

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2024

Speaker Mike Johnson  
H-232  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC, 20515

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries  
H-204  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On March 7, the Senate passed S. 3853, the *Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act* (RECRA), by a strong bipartisan vote of 69 to 30. This bipartisan bill, led by Senators Josh Hawley (R-MO), Mike Crapo (R-ID), and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), would reauthorize the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) before it expires on June 7, 2024. Reauthorization would allow for continued provision of compensation to the individuals exposed to radiation because they lived downwind of atomic weapons tests, worked in nuclear production, or worked in uranium mines. Importantly, however, the legislation also expands eligibility to additional downwinders, uranium workers, and those living near nuclear waste disposal sites, who have been denied restitution for decades. We urge you to discharge this critical legislation immediately so that it can be brought to the House floor for a vote before RECA expires this spring.

During the Cold War, thousands of American citizens unknowingly fell victim to radiation exposure. Although this mostly affected those living in the southwest and the U.S. Territories, citizens exposed to radiation as a result of these tests live across the United States, from Texas to Missouri to Idaho to Guam. In addition to nuclear testing, intensive uranium mining operations supported our effort to build atomic weapons. Uranium workers were exposed to an incredibly high level of radiation and had some of the highest mortality rates. As many of these workers have gotten older, they have experienced life-threatening illnesses like cancer and lung disease. Their children are also far more likely to be born with birth defects. The federal government is responsible for the harms Americans suffered as a result of its mismanaged nuclear weapons development program, and it is only right that they be compensated.

In 1990, Congress passed, and President George H.W. Bush signed into law, RECA to cover some of the health care costs that burdened these affected groups. Extending support to affected communities that are currently excluded is the least our government can do for those living with the effects of U.S. nuclear tests, uranium mining, and nuclear production and waste. With RECA expiring in under three months, S.3853 reauthorizes the current program and includes decades-overdue updates to fix its shortcomings. We must ensure that Americans suffering from radiation-related illnesses receive the help they deserve. Time is running out; Congress must not let this opportunity to reauthorize and strengthen RECA pass by.

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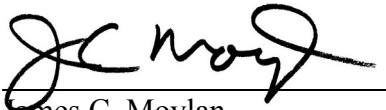
Radiation exposure affects Americans from all walks of life. Congress must not forget those innocent people who were irradiated and permanently impacted—simply because of where they lived or how they tried to earn a living for their families.

We urge you to quickly bring S.3853 to the House Floor for a vote by the full House of Representatives.

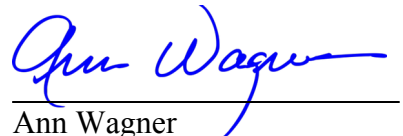
We thank you for your consideration.

cc. Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Majority Whip Tom Emmer, Chairman Jim Jordan, Minority Whip Katherine Clark, Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler

Sincerely,



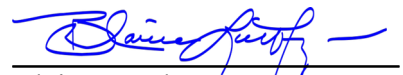
James C. Moylan  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
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Dusty Johnson  
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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress

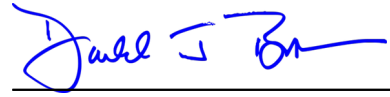
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Mark Alford  
Member of Congress



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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress