
By: **Delegates Morhaim and Leopold**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Maryland Victims of the 2001 Anthrax Attacks - Recognizing a Problem**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Congress of the United States to recognize that the
4 Maryland anthrax victims are individuals to whom the government has an
5 obligation to provide care; urging Congress to require health insurance
6 companies to cover the medical bills of Maryland anthrax victims; urging
7 Congress to obtain diagnostic criteria for an anthrax-related disability in the
8 workers' compensation system; providing that a copy of this resolution be
9 forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain individuals; and
10 generally relating to Maryland anthrax victims.

11 WHEREAS, Five people were killed and seven others remain seriously injured
12 after inhaling anthrax spores in September and October of 2001; and

13 WHEREAS, One of the Maryland victims was showered with anthrax-laden
14 dust while working at the Brentwood postal center in Washington and although he
15 has not tested positive for anthrax he has been diagnosed with Aborted Anthrax
16 Syndrome; and

17 WHEREAS, At least six 68 people have tested positive for anthrax or received
18 prolonged treatment for their exposure; and

19 WHEREAS, Three of the victims of the anthrax attack live in Maryland; and

20 WHEREAS, All three of the Maryland victims have experienced extreme
21 difficulty in obtaining coverage of the substantial medical bills resulting from the
22 anthrax exposure; and

23 WHEREAS, The health insurance companies of the Maryland victims initially
24 refused to cover the medical bills resulting from the anthrax exposure because the
25 exposure was allegedly an act of war; and

26 WHEREAS, Two of the victims finally received coverage of medical bills from
27 their insurance company only after public pressure from medical societies and doctors
28 who exposed the company's refusal of coverage; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor refused to cover the
2 Maryland victims without a full review for each visit, treatment, or procedure without
3 approval; and

4 WHEREAS, The source and the cause of the attacks have never been
5 determined; and

6 WHEREAS, The Maryland victims have work-related injuries and have
7 qualified for workers' compensation; however, coverage of medical bills is limited to 1
8 year unless partial or full disability is proven; and

9 WHEREAS, There are no criteria for making a determination of a partial or full
10 disability resulting from exposure to inhalation anthrax because the disease did not
11 previously exist; and

12 WHEREAS, The Maryland victims were injured in an attack on the United
13 States and deserve to be recognized by the government as individuals to whom the
14 government has an obligation to provide care; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
16 General Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to recognize that the
17 Maryland anthrax victims are individuals to whom the government has an obligation
18 to provide care; urges the Congress of the United States to require health insurance
19 companies to cover the medical bills of Maryland anthrax victims; and urges the
20 Congress of the United States to obtain diagnostic criteria for an anthrax-related
21 disability in the workers' compensation system; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
23 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
24 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
25 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
27 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
28 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
29 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L.
30 Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
31 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington,
32 D.C. 20515.