

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ (NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023)  
OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ OF CALIFORNIA**

At the appropriate place in division E insert the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURN PIT**  
2 **REGISTRY UPDATES.**

3 (a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions nec-  
7 essary to ensure that the burn pit registry may be  
8 updated with the cause of death of a deceased reg-  
9 istered individual by—

10 (A) an individual designated by such de-  
11 ceased registered individual; or

12 (B) if no such individual is designated, an  
13 immediate family member of such deceased reg-  
14 istered individual.

15 (2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall pro-  
16 vide, with respect to the burn pit registry, a process  
17 by which a registered individual may make a des-  
18 ignation for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) The term “burn pit registry” means the  
3 registry established under section 201 of the Dig-  
4 nified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improve-  
5 ment Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C.  
6 527 note).

7 (2) The term “immediate family member”, with  
8 respect to a deceased individual, means—

9 (A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or  
10 adult child of the individual;

11 (B) an adult person to whom the indi-  
12 vidual stands in loco parentis; or

13 (C) any other adult person—

14 (i) living in the household of the indi-  
15 vidual at the time of the death of the indi-  
16 vidual; and

17 (ii) related to the individual by blood  
18 or marriage.

19 (3) The term “registered individual” means an  
20 individual registered with the burn pit registry.

