

## **RAYMOND SINGER, PH.D.**

*A Professional Association*

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To: Legislative Committee on Veterans, Seniors and Seniors with Special Needs

From: Raymond Singer, Ph.D., FACPN, FNAN, FAPS

Subject: Veterans and Toxic Encephalopathy

Background: I am a Board-certified Neuropsychologist by the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology, with Added Qualifications in Forensic Neuropsychology I have been awarded the title "Fellow" by the American College of Professional Neuropsychology, National Academy of Neuropsychology, Association for Psychological Science, American Psychological Association. I am a 25 year member and former specialty section officer of the Society of Toxicology and the Roundtable of Toxicology Consultants. I have served as an expert witness in landmark toxic chemical litigation since 1983, including the Agent Orange Vietnam Veteran's litigation, as well as several death penalty criminal cases. Over the years of my independent practice, I have seen many veterans with toxic chemical injuries to their nervous system. In the second edition of my book "Neurotoxicity Guidebook", under contract with a major science publisher, I will have a chapter entitled "The Neurotoxic Legacy of War", outlining the devastation that neurotoxic chemicals have had on our Armed Forces personnel.

Many veterans suffer from neurotoxicity. Neurotoxicity can cause confusion, difficulty concentrating, personality changes, emotional dysfunction, difficulty communicating, and impaired ability to plan, manage, and control one's own life.

These conditions are often undiagnosed due to a lack of training and education regarding neurotoxicity among medical personnel. When these conditions are undiagnosed and untreated, the people suffering from neurotoxicity often have disrupted marriages, failed employment, disability and deteriorated lives. Some of those with this condition have difficulty controlling their impulses, leading to problems with the law.

Unfortunately, in addition to the difficulty in getting a proper diagnosis, veterans and other people neurotoxicity do not have access to adequate treatment.

As you might know, Dr. Carpenter's group just completed a study funded by the Department of Defense on Gulf War Illness.

The National Toxic Encephalopathy Foundation and I had applied for a federal grant to expand on Dr. Carpenter's research approach for treatment of Gulf War Veteran's neurotoxicity. We had proposed additional treatment including environmental controls to reduce toxic chemical exposures of the veterans being treated. Unfortunately, we were told by the granting agency that our research proposal was duplicative and could not be funded. However, based on the outcomes of Dr. Carpenter's research so far, we believe that indeed this extension of Dr. Carpenter's work would be very helpful.

*Raymond Singer*

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