

MARTIN FROST

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RULES COMMITTEE

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

RCC1.960404.001

October 12, 1995

THE RADIATION EXPERIMENTATION COMPENSATION ACT OF 1995

Dear Colleague:

I have introduced the Radiation Experimentation Compensation Act of 1995 that will compensate certain individuals who were the subjects of secret government radiation tests that began during the 1940s.

As you may know, the President's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments recently released a report which found that the federal government conducted secret radiation tests on thousands of individuals beginning in the 1940s.

The Committee has recommended that the federal government compensate certain individuals who were subjects in radiation experiments and that Congress should consider legislation to provide compensation to the immediate families of those victims.

My bill will authorize compensation to those victims (or surviving family members) of plutonium, zirconium and total-body irradiation experiments with a payment of \$50,000. A process would be set up by the Attorney General to review claims and determine which ones are eligible for compensation.

One of the people injected with plutonium, Elmer Allen, lived in my Congressional District in Texas. Believing that he was being treated for bone cancer, Mr. Allen received an injection of plutonium in 1947. Although doctors did not expect him to live long, Elmer Allen lived another 44 years. But those were difficult years for a man troubled by numerous illnesses and health problems.

We can never fully compensate these people for what their government has done to them. However, we can provide some measure of relief with this payment and recognition that the United States Government was wrong to conduct secret experiments on its citizens.

If you would like to join me in cosponsoring this measure, or have any questions, please call Susan McAvoy at X5-3605.

Sincerely,



MARTIN FROST