

Amend **HCR 75** by striking the resolution and substituting the following:

WHEREAS, We support our men and women in the armed forces 100 percent. We salute them for their sacrifice on behalf of our nation. We thank them for their willingness to risk their lives; and

WHEREAS, Even as we praise our servicemen and women, we regret that the President of the United States has ordered them to start a preemptive war fought without international support; and

WHEREAS, We believe a preemptive, unilateral war is unworthy of the honor and tradition of the U.S. military. Our armed forces should not be invading and occupying other countries; and

WHEREAS, The House Budget Committee voted to cut the Department of Veterans Affairs' budget by \$14 billion over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, The House Budget Committee voted to cut the Impact Aid program that supports the education of soldiers' children by \$204 million; and

WHEREAS, The Bush Administration ordered the Department of Veterans Affairs to limit veterans' access to healthcare and benefits by ordering VA to stop publicizing the availability of benefits; and

WHEREAS, In the last Gulf War, veterans were exposed to the fall out from destroyed chemical weapons, ammunition depots, oil fires, depleted uranium and experimental drugs resulting in the disabling of more than 163,000 veterans, and;

WHEREAS, Despite the requirements of the 1997 Force Health Protection law (Public Law 105-85), the Department of Defense is repeating the mistakes from 1991 by failing to identify who went to war, their exposures, and their health consequences; and,

WHEREAS, An offensive war and budget cuts demonstrate that Congress and the President have thus far failed to provide support for veterans and families of active duty troops and reservists; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, We call for an increase in government spending for veterans and higher pay and benefits for service members and their families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge our government to adopt a foreign policy that achieves victory through diplomacy and engagement with the United Nations and democracies rather than resorting to war as the first option to resolve disputes. Avoiding and ending unnecessary combat in Iraq is the best way to support our troops and ensure their safe and speedy return home; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.