

**R030-0607**

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS.**

20     **WHEREAS:**     In Iraq and Afghanistan, twenty percent of all troops report that their army issue M4 Carbine  
30                             jams frequently despite the fact that many soldiers augment there standard cleaning kit; and,

40     **WHEREAS:**     Fifty-four percent of soldiers issued the M-249 SAW (Squad Automatic Rifle) also reported  
50                             problems with poor accuracy and frequent overheating; and,

60     **WHEREAS:**     There were also complaints about the standard sidearm (M9 Pistol), it corrodes easily and the  
70                             weak magazine spring does not adequately provide rounds to the chamber; and,

80     **WHEREAS:**     There are many complaints from soldiers about the poor magazine of the M16; and,

90     **WHEREAS:**     The lethality of the M16 is also a serious issue, soldiers frequently request a weapon with more  
100                            stopping power. The 5.56 mm rounds used by the M4, M16, and M249 are highly controversial  
110                            among troops who request, "A weapon with a larger round so we may drop one man with one  
120                            bullet"; and,

130    **WHEREAS:**     Thirty-five percent of all troops say they are uncomfortable with their weapons; and,

140    **WHEREAS:**     The Military has proposed to buy another one hundred thousand M4 Carbines for the troops; and,

150    **WHEREAS:**     Members of Delta Force have worked with weapons manufacturers to build the 416, considered  
160                            to be the best carbine in the world. Combining the ruggedness and reliability of the AK-47 and  
170                            the accuracy and familiarity of the M4.

180    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges Secretary of Defense Robert  
190                            Gates and the Department of Defense to cease use of the M4 Carbine and begin a gradual  
200                            refitting of units until they are all equipped with the 416; and,

210    **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Department of Defense to  
220                            immediately begin seeking more reliable and lethal replacements for the M16, M249 SAW, and  
230                            the M9 Pistol.

280    **MANDATES:**     Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense  
290                            Senator Carl Levil, Chairman Armed Services committee  
300                            Senator John McCain, Ranking Member Armed Services committee  
310                            Representative Ike Skelton, Chairman Armed Services committee  
320                            Representative Duncan Hunter, Ranking Member Armed Services committee

**SPONSOR:**

Paul Schuman  
Vice Delegation Chair Person, University of Maryland, Baltimore County