

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 issued M4 Carbine
30 jams frequently despite the fact that many soldiers augment their 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 Levin, 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:

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