

Senate Joint Resolution No. 2

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 70

Senate Joint Resolution No. 2—Relative to the Gulf War Syndrome.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 10, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 2, M. Thompson. The Gulf War Syndrome.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to take immediate action to ensure that all of the health care and family support needs of all Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses related to the Gulf War Syndrome are met prior to the conclusion of any further studies, that all possible causes of the Gulf War Syndrome be expeditiously and exhaustively researched, and that the actions of the Pentagon and the Department of Defense regarding release of information regarding the Gulf War Syndrome be fully investigated.

WHEREAS, Nearly 120,000 Californians answered their country's call and put themselves at great risk of personal injury and death by serving in the Persian Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, Since returning home from the Persian Gulf more than 100,000 veterans of the war have registered with the Veterans Administration's Persian Gulf War registry with medical complaints ranging from chronic fatigue, skin rashes, chronic headaches, memory loss, muscle and joint pain, neurological disorders, sleep disturbances, respiratory troubles, digestive ailments, cardiovascular problems, abnormal weight loss, menstrual disorders, fertility problems, miscarriages, and birth defects; and

WHEREAS, The complex of illnesses known as the "Gulf War Syndrome" was recently documented in studies completed by both the Centers for Disease Control and the United States Navy that found that Persian Gulf War veterans are suffering from health problems at a far higher rate than other troops; and

WHEREAS, Recently the Pentagon and the Department of Defense reversed their previous denial that United States troops had in fact been exposed to chemical weapons during the war, but could not locate military logs covering eight days in March 1991 when tens of thousands of United States and allied troops were accidentally exposed to chemical or biological agents; and

WHEREAS, The Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses recently released its report that found that the Pentagon has not "acted credibly" in its handling of the issue of troop exposure to chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature, on February 5, 1991, adopted Senate Joint Resolution No. 5 that memorialized the President of the United States “in his commitment in sending troops into battle, and creating a new generation of veterans of foreign wars, to be equally committed to providing for their health care needs, caring for their family support needs, and all other attendant needs they will experience as a result of war”; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California proclaims its concern that the United States government has not fully met its moral obligation to attend to the health care and family support needs of its Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from Gulf War Syndrome; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States to take immediate action to ensure all of the following:

(1) That all of the health care and family support needs of all Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from these illnesses are met prior to the conclusion of any further studies.

(2) That all possible causes of the Gulf War Syndrome, including infectious diseases, pesticides, smoke and particulates from oil well fires, contact with dust and rubble from exploded shells made of depleted uranium, chemical and biological weapons, and vaccines and pills administered to troops as antidotes to possible chemical and biological agents are expeditiously and exhaustively researched.

(3) That the actions of the Pentagon and the Department of Defense regarding the release of pertinent information regarding Gulf War Syndrome and the exposure of troops to chemical or biological weapons be fully investigated; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

