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**JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT  
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION TO PROTECT THE  
LIVES AND HEALTH OF MEMBERS OF THE MAINE NATIONAL GUARD**

**WE**, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the President of the United States and the United States Congress as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Commission to Protect the Lives and Health of Members of the Maine National Guard, hereafter referred to as "the commission," was established by the 123rd Maine Legislature to develop and recommend measures, changes in protocols and other procedures to prevent future noncombat deaths and disabilities and to save the lives and improve the health of members of the Maine National Guard on both active and inactive duty; and

**WHEREAS**, the commission has met, held public hearings and developed a number of recommendations, many of which have been adopted in Maine and which would help the United States Armed Forces as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of recommendations require federal approval and we forward the recommendations to you as follows:

**That** increased efforts to diagnose and treat illnesses, such as those found in veterans of the 1990-1991 Gulf War and the global war on terror, be undertaken immediately;

**That** all anthrax vaccine safety data be made available for expert analysis, especially to decision makers and independent scientists;

**That** research using the Defense Medical Surveillance System databases specifically investigate the relationship between anthrax vaccine and chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia and other pain disorders, undiagnosed illnesses and Gulf War syndrome;

**That** Congress request the Institute of Medicine to perform a review of the military smallpox program in an identical manner to its review of the civilian smallpox program, and ask the Secretary of Defense to follow the recommendations of the institute with respect to future smallpox vaccinations;

**That** electronic medical records be established that are seamlessly and rapidly transferable between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs;

**That** existing regulations to improve the medical disability process for service members be enforced and that current standards be improved;

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**That** Congress ensure the Department of Defense's Disability Evaluation System be expanded as quickly as possible, and

**That** service members be granted the benefit of a doubt when they file a valid disability claim for service-connected injuries or illnesses and be provided health care benefits and compensation as soon as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, these recommendations of the commission, if adopted for members of the United States Armed Forces, could save the lives and protect the health of all United States military personnel; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States and the United States Congress review and adopt these recommendations to protect the lives and health of members of the Maine National Guard and the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.