

House Concurrent Resolution No. 35

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES OXFORD (Sponsor), SCHUPP, PACE, WALTON GRAY, ATKINS, STILL, NEWMAN, KIRKTON, McNEIL, MONTECILLO, CARTER, NICHOLS, JONES (63), SMITH (71), TALBOY, SPRENG, ELLINGER, FALLERT, CURLS, LAMPE, SCHIEFFER, NASHEED, HODGES, BROWN (50), SHUMAKE, CARLSON, SWEARINGEN, PETERS-BAKER, McCANN BEATTY, HUGHES, PIERSON, ZIMMERMAN, MEADOWS, CASEY, HUMMEL, COLONA, McGEOGHEGAN, RIZZO, ANDERS, SIFTON, McMANUS, KRATKY, SHIVELY, McDONALD, HOLSMAN, DAY, GRISAMORE, FAITH, FLANIGAN AND SILVEY (Co-sponsors).

0868L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, depleted uranium (DU) is a chemically toxic and radioactive heavy metal.
3 It is a waste product of nuclear fuel or nuclear bomb production, during which natural uranium
4 has been "depleted" of uranium 235. Gram-for-gram, DU is 60% as radioactive as pure uranium
5 ore and has a half-life of 4.5 billion years; and

6 **WHEREAS**, DU emits radioactive alpha particles that can cause kidney and lung
7 damage and cancer when ingested and inhaled. DU can also cause mutations that can be carried
8 forward from one generation to another; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, at least 16 different mutations used by United States Armed Forces contain
11 DU. DU is 1.7 times denser than lead, making it a highly effective anti-tank weapon as the DU
12 slices through the tank's armor. When a DU shell penetrates through tank armor, it ignites and
13 spews an extremely fine DU dust into the air. Such dust can carry for miles and can be easily
14 inhaled or ingested. DU is also used in the armor of the Abrams tank, exposing the operators of
15 such tanks to DU radiation; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, DU munitions and armor have been used extensively in Iraq during the
18 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq. Members of the Missouri National
19 Guard serving in Iraq and in Armed Services functions, facilities, vehicles, and aircraft involving
20 DU have been exposed to DU in unknown doses with unknown consequences to the health of
21 such National Guard members; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, it should be the highest priority of the State of Missouri to safeguard the
24 health of Missouri National Guard veterans by assisting them in obtaining federal treatment
25 services, including best practice health screening tests capable of detecting low levels of DU in
26 such veterans, and by studying the health effects on such veterans of exposures to hazardous
27 materials, including DU, during their service:

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
29 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
30 concurring therein, hereby request the Adjutant General to:

31 (1) Establish a voluntary reporting program for members of the Missouri National Guard
32 who have been exposed to depleted uranium. Such reporting should include, but not be limited
33 to:

34 (a) Illnesses believed to be attributable to exposure to depleted uranium; and

35 (b) Birth defects occurring in children of members of the Missouri National Guard who
36 have been exposed to depleted uranium;

37 (2) Develop a plan to educate members of the Missouri National Guard and health care
38 professionals regarding the advantages and methods of early screening, diagnosis, and treatment
39 of exposure to depleted uranium, make recommendations on the implementation of a cost-
40 effective plan for such screening, diagnosis, and treatment, and submit a report of the adjutant
41 general's findings and recommendations to the General Assembly; and

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
44 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Brigadier
45 General Stephen Danner, Adjutant General of the Missouri National Guard.

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