

2021 -- H 5755

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING RHODE ISLAND'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE ACTION

Introduced By: Representatives Potter, Morales, and Henries

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

1           WHEREAS, The federal military budget comprises more than fifty percent of federal  
2 discretionary spending and far outpaces federal spending on other crucial societal needs such as  
3 education, infrastructure, transportation, food and housing security; and

4           WHEREAS, America's growing global military footprint in many ways is a destabilizing  
5 factor upon our national security and global well-being, possibly inducing a new global arms  
6 race; and

7           WHEREAS, The effects of the climate crisis are becoming more clear and investments in  
8 climate mitigation and resilience industries more needed; and

9           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island economy was reliant on the military sector for 7.6 percent  
10 of its economic output, according to the Southern New England Defense Industry Alliance's  
11 (SENEDIA) latest report from 2017; and

12           WHEREAS, Public investment in other industries, such as clean energy, infrastructure,  
13 education, health care, rather than in the military, produces a greater number of jobs, according to  
14 research presented by the Costs of War Project at Brown University's Watson Institute; and

15           WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that  
16 "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" will be required to avoid  
17 a climate catastrophe; now, therefore be it

18           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
19 respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Congressional delegation prioritize an economic

1 transition where resources are directed away from militarism toward mitigation of, and adaptation  
2 to, the climate crisis in a way that guarantees a just transition for those working in sectors of  
3 reduced economic activity, and that benefits all communities, in particular communities of color  
4 and poverty whose well-being is often neglected; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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