Resolution urging California Legislature to draft and pass a bill concerning exposure to depleted uranium by members of the armed forces who return to California after service in the military.

WHEREAS, Depleted uranium (DU) is a by-product from the process that enriches natural uranium ore for use as fuel in nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons. It is highly dense, radioactive, and a heavy metal with both offensive and defensive military applications; and,

WHEREAS, Vast amounts of DU-tipped armaments and armor have been used by U.S. and allied forces in both Gulf wars and in the Balkans, including 127 tons of DU shells used in Iraq in 2004 alone; and,

WHEREAS, DU penetrator fragments and jackets/casings can be found lying on the surface, buried within shallow ground around targeted areas, and in areas where tanks came into combat; and,

WHEREAS, Health effects depend on the route and magnitude of exposure (ingestion, inhalation, skin contact or wounds), and the characteristics of the DU (such as particle size, chemical form, and solubility); and,

WHEREAS, DU munitions vaporize on contact and generate contaminated dust which is easily inhaled into the lungs; and,

WHEREAS, A German study (2002) indicated that DU molecules can travel to different parts of the body, including sperm and eggs damaging genes and increasing the risk of cancer; and,

Supervisor Mirkarimi
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, Members of Congress Jim McDermott D-WA and Jose Serrano D-NY have introduced bills (H.R. 1483 and H.R. 202 respectively) calling for study of DU’s long-term impact and medical treatment for those who have been exposed; and,

WHEREAS, The Louisiana House of Representatives became the first legislative body in the nation to acknowledge the effects of DU when it passed a bill (H.B. 570) in May, 2005, that guarantees DU testing for war veterans as a medical benefit; and,

WHEREAS, While some testing for DU exposure of soldiers has been done, the government has denied testing to many veterans who believe they were exposed to DU; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California Legislature to draft and pass a bill concerning exposure to depleted uranium by members of the armed forces who return to California after service in the military.
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June 21, 2005 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 7 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Absent: 3 - Daly, Ma, McGoldrick
Excused: 1 - Maxwell

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 21, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom