

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Retain the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Resolution No. 17-21

WHEREAS, during peacetime and hostilities, the quality of health care delivery to military personnel is crucial to combat operations, recruiting and retention; and

WHEREAS, the 1972 Health Professional Revitalization Act created the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) and the Health Professionals Scholarships Program (HPSP) and, as designed, provides a flexible source of physicians to meet the changing needs of the services by supplying a cadre of career-oriented medical officers, trained with emphasis on military medicine, such as combat casualty care, tropical medicine, trauma and combat stress; and

WHEREAS, in a fiscal climate in which the Department of Defense overall budget can increase only slowly, continued rapid growth in military health care costs could force DoD to reduce spending in other areas, such as force structure, military readiness, and weapons modernization. Policymakers have considered various initiatives to slow federal spending for health care, such as implementing more effective administration of the military health care system, and

WHEREAS, a 2014 CBO report concludes that substituting scholarships at civilian medical schools for tuition-free medical education at USUHS would reduce costs but by only a small amount because the school itself is small, and

WHEREAS, USUHS graduates since the first graduating class in 1980 remained on active duty for an average of 11 years; and

WHEREAS, as provided to congressional committees during 2002 by the Navy Surgeon General: the median length of non-obligated service for physician specialists in the Military Health System, not including USUHS graduates, is 2.9 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress, urge the Congress to retain the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to ensure the continued availability of career-oriented military physicians to the uniformed services.

Renewed by the National Convention, 30 July 2005 as 05-29, 28 June 2008 as 08-27, 2 February 2011 as 11-20, 26 July 2014 as 14-18 and 23 July 2017

Adopted by the National Convention, 23 June 2002 as 02-28