

1 [Urging California Legislature to draft and pass a bill concerning exposure to depleted  
2 uranium by members of the armed forces]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California  
 11 Legislature to draft and pass a bill concerning exposure to depleted uranium by members of  
 12 the armed forces who return to California after service in the military.

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