

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 67 By: Snyder

A Resolution expressing concern over the state of the military's protective equipment; memorializing the U.S. Congress to provide oversight of military preparedness to ensure that protective equipment is effective; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, a number of reputable sources such as the respected "Jane's" publication has called into question the durability of the chemical and biological protective masks provided to the U.S. armed forces including its reserve components; and

WHEREAS, these sources indicate that the present chemical and protective masks have a very abbreviated protection time against chemical and biological agents, which, in some cases, is as brief as four minutes; and

WHEREAS, during the 1991 Gulf War many members of the U.S. armed forces sustained exposure to unknown agents of undetermined origins, which exposures have caused prolonged medical consequences for these individuals. Their illnesses may be attributed in part to inferior chemical and biological protective equipment provided to them; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard of the various states is designated to be the primary agency responding to domestic terrorist incidents, which are likely to include terrorism by use of chemical and biological agents; and

WHEREAS, members of the U.S. armed forces, whether deployed in situations of domestic terrorism or deployed overseas against foreign military forces, should expect to be provided chemical and biological protection equipment of the highest order reasonably available through modern technology.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate expresses its concern over the state of the American military's protective equipment.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate memorializes the U.S. Congress to provide oversight of military preparedness to ensure that the chemical and biological protection equipment which is provided to members of the U.S. armed forces, wherever they may be deployed, is the best and most efficacious protective equipment that is reasonably available through current technology.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Secretary of State for distribution to the Oklahoma Congressional delegation and the Chairs of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee and U.S. House of Representatives National Security Committee.

Adopted by the Senate the 22nd day of April, 1998.

President of the Senate

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