

1 **Ensuring That Students Make An Informed Decision Regarding Military Service and ROTC**
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3 **Whereas, as educators we commit daily to the flourishing our students and work to ensure that they**
4 **reach their full potential, and**

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6 **Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 mandates that all high schools receiving federal funds**
7 **must provide student contact information to military recruiters upon request, and must allow recruiters**
8 **to have the same access to students that colleges and employers have, and**

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10 **Whereas, the 1996 Solomon Amendment mandates that colleges will lose federal aid if they do not allow**
11 **access to military recruiters, and**

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13 **Whereas, more than 310,00 high school students are enrolled in Junior Reserve Office Training (JROTC)**
14 **and nearly 53,000 college students are enrolled in ROTC and receiving military training, and**

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16 **Whereas, according to Congressional hearings, between 30 and 50 percent of graduating JROTC students**
17 **go on to join the military, and**

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19 **Whereas, ROTC graduates have a contractual obligation to serve in the military, and**

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21 **Whereas, at a period when public services like health care and education budgets are facing serious**
22 **cutbacks, the US military spends billions of dollars on marketing to children through TV shows,**
23 **infomercials, movies, musical videos, toys and video games, and**

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25 **Whereas, while primarily targeting students from an economically disadvantaged background, military**
26 **recruiters focus on the benefits and avoid mentioning the dangers of military service or criticisms of U.S.**
27 **militarism, and**

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29 **Whereas, ROTC instruction is written by the Pentagon and is standardized across high school and college**
30 **campuses, and does not address the perils of military service or alternatives to wars, and**

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32 **Whereas, the dangers of military service are well documented and include death, permanent injury,**
33 **exposure to environmental toxins such as Agent Orange, witnessing or participating in war crimes, Post-**
34 **Traumatic Stress Disorder, sexual harassment and assault, higher rates of suicide, and other problems,¹**
35 **and**

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37 **Whereas, in the same way educators expose students to diverse perspectives on any issue, they should**
38 **ensure that high school and college students are able to give informed consent when making decisions**
39 **about military service and therefore need to be exposed to contending positions on whether to join the**
40 **military, therefore be it**

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42 **Resolved, that NYSUT calls on school districts, colleges and universities to offer their students diverse**
43 **views about military service and ROTC, balancing arguments for military service and ROTC training with**
44 **the arguments of critics of military service, including its health risks, and**

¹ According to a RAND study, of the nearly 2.7 million Americans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, at least 20% of them have PTSD and/or Depression (<http://www.veteransandptsd.com/PTSD-statistics.html>); The Academy Award-nominated documentary *The Invisible War* portrays an epidemic of sexual assault and harassment of women and men in the military. (<http://invisiblewarmovie.com>)

45 **Resolved, that NYSUT develop a curriculum guide with resources for teachers from the perspective of**
46 **those who advocate for military service and those who oppose it (such as those provided by speakers**
47 **from Veterans for Peace and counter-recruitment literature),² and**
48
49 **Resolved, that the NYSUT advocate that ROTC classes offered at institutes of higher education must be**
50 **subject to the normal, faculty-governed course approval procedure like any other course at the**
51 **institution prior to being offered for academic credit at colleges and universities.**

² Scott Harding and Seth Kershner, *Counter-Recruitment and the Campaign to Demilitarize Public Schools*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015; Veterans for Peace website: <https://www.veteransforpeace.org>; Counter-recruitment resources from American Friends Service Committee: <https://www.afsc.org/resource/counter-recruitment>