

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 45**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GREGORY P. MCGUCKIN

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman PAUL KANITRA

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges US Congress to pass legislation to reinstate service members discharged for refusing COVID-19 vaccine.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/29/2024)

ACR45 MCGUCKIN, KANTRA

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to
2 pass H.R.7570 establishing certain protections for individuals
3 involuntarily separated from the United States Armed Forces
4 solely on the basis of refusing to receive vaccinations against
5 COVID-19.

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7 **WHEREAS**, In 2021 the Biden administration announced that members
8 of the United States Armed Forces were required to be vaccinated
9 against COVID-19; and

10 **WHEREAS**, After refusing to receive the vaccine, some members of the
11 Armed Forces were disciplined and were discharged from the
12 Armed Forces; and

13 **WHEREAS**, In some cases, the discharges received were general
14 discharges under honorable conditions rather than honorable
15 discharges, diminishing the contributions individuals have made to
16 protect our country, possibly damaging their records, and possibly
17 reducing their eligibility for certain benefits; and

18 **WHEREAS**, United States House of Representatives Bill No.7570 was
19 introduced by Representative Christopher H. Smith of this State on
20 April 25, 2022 in order to rectify the injustice faced by the
21 discharged service members; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Through the legislation a service member has the
23 opportunity to be reinstated to the United States Armed Forces, to
24 change their discharge characterization, and ensure their access to
25 retired pay and benefits; and

26 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is grateful for the sacrifices that members of
27 the military have made in service to this nation and honors the
28 importance of continuing to recognize those contributions through
29 respect for individual choices; now, therefore,

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31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
32 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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34 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully urges
35 the United States Congress to pass H.R.7570.

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37 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
38 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of
39 the General Assembly to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
40 United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority
41 Leaders in the United States Senate, and every member of Congress
42 elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

47 This concurrent resolution urges the United States Congress to
48 pass H.R.7570, which would establish certain protections for

1 individuals involuntarily separated from the United States Armed
2 Forces solely on the basis of refusing to receive vaccinations
3 against COVID-19.

4 COVID-19 vaccinations became mandatory for members of the
5 Armed Forces in 2021. Those service members who did not wish to
6 receive a vaccine were discharged, in some cases with a general
7 discharge under honorable conditions. These discharges may create
8 issues for future employment and minimize the contribution and
9 commitment made by members of the United States Armed Forces.

10 H.R.7570 would reinstate service members to their previous rank
11 and grade, upon their request and change the discharge of an
12 individual to honorable. New Jersey recognizes the contributions of
13 members of the Armed Forces and the importance of their service to
14 our nation.