

2023 -- H 5467

LC001285

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS BENEFITS TO THE HMONG/LAOTIAN VETERANS WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES IN THE "SECRET WAR" IN LAOS

Introduced By: Representatives Corvese, Azzinaro, Kennedy, O'Brien, Hull, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: February 08, 2023

Referred To: House Veterans` Affairs

1 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975, many  
2 thousands of Hmong/Laotian people served and fought in the Laos Civil War, also known as the  
3 "Secret War", on the side of the United States-led coalition against the Pathet Lao and North  
4 Vietnamese communist force; and

5 WHEREAS, The Hmong/Laotian forces worked together and were paid by the CIA, to  
6 conduct operations in Laos. It is estimated that more than 35,000 Hmong/Laotian soldiers  
7 perished while supporting the United States and its armed forces. They fought honorably and  
8 tirelessly for the cause of freedom, yet today are still not recognized as United States Vietnam  
9 War Veterans; and

10 WHEREAS, Recognizing the heroic sacrifices made by these Hmong/Laotian war  
11 veterans would allow them to finally receive the support and respect they earned on the battle  
12 field; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
14 respectfully urges the United States Congress to pass legislation to provide veterans' benefits to  
15 the Hmong/Laotian veterans who served the United States in the "Secret War" in Laos; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph Biden, Jr., President of

1 the United States and the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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