

HOUSE No. 3710

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Shirley B. Arriaga

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve to study women veterans and the long-term effects of combat on motherhood.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Shirley B. Arriaga</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>6/22/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3710

By Representative Arriaga of Chicopee, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 3710) of Shirley B. Arriaga for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) on women veterans and the long-term effects of combat on motherhood. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

Resolve to study women veterans and the long-term effects of combat on motherhood.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a special legislative commission established pursuant to section
2 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws to study the effects combat experience has on motherhood
3 and parenting for female veterans. The special commission shall examine female veterans who
4 have experienced combat and whether that experience has either short or long-term impacts on
5 motherhood. The special commission shall examine the children of female veterans who
6 experienced combat and any lifelong effects it may have on those children living in the
7 commonwealth.

8 The special commission shall consist of: (i) the chairs of the joint committee on veterans
9 and federal affairs, who shall be co-chairs for the commission; (ii) the chairs of the joint
10 committee mental health, substance use and recovery; (iii) the secretary of veterans' services or a
11 designee; (vi) the commissioner of mental health or a designee; (vii) 1 person to be appointed by
12 the speaker of the house of representatives, whom shall be a veteran; (v) 1 person to be appointed

13 by the president of the senate, whom shall be a veteran; and (vi) 1 person appointed by the
14 governor, whom shall have specialized knowledge of female veterans serving in combat.

15 All appointments shall be made not later than 30 days after the effective date of this
16 resolve. The chairpersons shall meet with the special commission not later than 60 days after the
17 effective date of this resolve.

18 Not later than 18 months after the enactment of this resolve, the special commission shall
19 submit a report and recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to
20 carry those recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerks of the house of
21 representatives and the senate and the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs.