
**Enact the *Parity for US Public Health Service Ready Reserve Act*
(5: NOAA & USPHS)
Resolution No. 23-02**

WHEREAS, the Ready Reserve officers of the USPHS Commissioned Corps do not have access to the same benefits as their similarly situated uniformed services counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the USPHS Commissioned Corps is one of the eight uniformed services and an all-officer cadre dedicated to protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020* enacted a long overdue modernization effort to establish the USPHS Ready Reserve Corps, but left gaps in the initial authorization for personnel policy and benefits when compared to the other uniformed services; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of benefits parity between the USPHS Ready Reserve Corps and its uniformed services counterparts, the USPHS Ready Reserve Corps is not well equipped to effectively recruit and retain, with less than 100 Ready Reserve officers having commissioned to date; and

WHEREAS, the USPHS Ready Reserve Corps has already proven vital to enhancing the response capabilities of the USPHS Commissioned Corps and other uniformed services; and

WHEREAS, the absence of an enhanced USPHS Ready Reserve Corps personnel capability will detract from the USPHS Commissioned Corps' ability to execute its mission and meaningfully partner with the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2023, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) introduced S.2297, the *Parity for Public Health Service Act*, which enables access to benefits and entitlements afforded to the Reserve Component service members in all the other uniformed services; and

WHEREAS, the *Parity for Public Health Service Act* will empower the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to recruit, retain, train, and mobilize an elite and sufficient force of uniformed USPHS Ready Reserve officers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reserve Officers Association, d.b.a. the Reserve Organization of America, urges Congress to support the *Parity for Public Health Service Ready Reserve Act* and the President to codify it in public law.

Adopted by the National Convention, 1 Oct. 2023

Submitted: Department of North Carolina, 1 Sept. 2023