

**Ensure an Adequate National Defense Budget
(10: RC Funding & Orgn/15: National Security)
Resolution No. 23-13**

WHEREAS, the annual National Defense Authorization Act and Defense appropriations acts enable the Department of Defense to deter war and ensure our national security; and

WHEREAS, despite increases in the top-line funding provided to DoD, the total national defense investment was less than 3.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in fiscal year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the *2022 National Defense Strategy* outlines the rapidly evolving conditions of the international system (with the People's Republic of China being the "pacing challenge" for the Department) and explains the need to ensure "tight linkages between our strategy and resources"; and

WHEREAS, investment in our national defense at less than 5 percent of GDP puts the DoD in a disadvantageous position to execute the NDS, especially when considering the increased security threat posed by the PRC and the evolution of competition between nation-states and non-state actors; and

WHEREAS, the nation cannot maintain a combat credible capability without the proper equipment, readiness, and personnel; and

WHEREAS, current equipment continuously needs to be replaced and modernized; and

WHEREAS, Congress has considered various proposals that reduce top-line defense spending (by up to 13 percent) and call for reductions in military manning to reduce DoD funding, both of which would impair military readiness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Reserve Officers Association, d.b.a. the Reserve Organization of America, urges the President and Congress to ensure DoD's funding is at no less than 5 percent of GDP, until such time that that a lesser amount can maintain an adequate national security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ROA urges the President and Congress to oppose all budgetary proposals that negatively impact DoD's ability to resource a personnel and equipment capability that enables the United States to execute the National Defense Strategy, maintain its competitive advantage over adversaries, and adapt to emerging threats in the international system.

Renewed by the National Convention 1 Oct. 2023

Renewed by the National Convention 19 September 2020

Renewed by National Convention: 23 July 2017

Renewed by National Convention: 26 July 2014

Renewed by National Convention: 2 February 2011

Renewed by the National Council 4 February 2009

Adopted by ROA National Council: 8 February 2006

Source: National Headquarters Staff