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**A RESOLUTION TO BE INTRODUCED BY LEGISLATOR WHYTE**

**RE: SUPPORT FOR MILITARY BENEFITS**

**WHEREAS**, brave men and women have defended our country in an exemplary manner in all parts of the world since our nation's inception; and

**WHEREAS**, all citizens of the United States have benefited from the sacrifices made by these veterans in defending our safety and freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, our country's veterans continue to serve our country and the cause of freedom by exemplifying the patriotism and love of country that has become the fabric of our society; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to love of country, many men and women enroll in the armed forces for the financial and health benefits that accompanies military service; and

**WHEREAS**, curtailing these benefits would result in fewer men and women enrolling in the military, possibly endangering our safety; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the debt ceiling agreement approved this summer by Congress, under which the Pentagon must find \$400 billion in reductions over the next 12 years, many cuts once considered unthinkable are now being considered; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the sacrifices made by our veterans, some members of congress are now advocating for cuts to the financial and health benefits our military members and retirees receive in an attempt to cut federal spending.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby go on record as being strongly opposed to balancing the budget on the backs of men and women who risked their lives defending our freedom; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, Governor Cuomo, US Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and US Representatives Hochul, Higgins, and Slaughter, and the Erie County Veterans Service Agency.