

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 126

Reps. Woolford, Robinson, Hoadley, DeBoyer and Maddock offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the United States Armed Forces to expand  
2 the use of medical waivers for recruits with food allergies,  
3 including allergies to peanuts.

4       Whereas, The United States Department of Defense has  
5 established medical qualifications for prospective recruits to  
6 ensure that those who are appointed, enlisted, or inducted into  
7 military service are fit for duty. These standards are designed to  
8 exclude those whose conditions would cause them to lose excessive  
9 time from duty for treatment or hospitalization, as well as screen  
10 out applicants who would not be capable of performing their duties  
11 without aggravating existing conditions. Under Department of  
12 Defense Instruction 6130.03, Section 6.23, one disqualifying  
13 condition is a "[h]istory of acute allergic reaction to fish,

1 crustaceans, shellfish, peanuts, or tree nuts including the  
2 presence of a food-specific immunoglobulin E antibody if  
3 accompanied by a correlating clinical history.” However, this  
4 Instruction also allows medical waivers to be granted on a case-by-  
5 case basis; and

6       Whereas, The United States Armed Forces should expand the use  
7 of medical waivers to allow more individuals with food allergies to  
8 serve our country. Our military is capable of accommodating dietary  
9 restrictions, as demonstrated by the availability of Kosher and  
10 Halal rations and policies allowing commanding officers to approve  
11 diet-related religious accommodations. Furthermore, not all careers  
12 in the Armed Forces place servicemembers in the position of relying  
13 on rations or other food provided by the military, meaning these  
14 individuals may need less accommodation; and

15       Whereas, The United States Air Force is already taking these  
16 factors into account and expanding access to medical waivers for  
17 those with food allergies. In December 2024, the Air Force  
18 announced that individuals with a documented history of food  
19 allergies, provided there has been no anaphylaxis or serious  
20 systemic reaction, will now qualify for a medical waiver.  
21 Individuals granted these waivers will be restricted in which  
22 careers they can pursue and where they can be assigned, to ensure  
23 that they are not unduly placed at risk. This new policy is a  
24 reasonable and logical way of balancing medical standards and  
25 recruitment needs, and it removes barriers for many who are willing  
26 and able to serve; and

27       Whereas, Many adults in the United States have food allergies.  
28 The National Center for Health Statistics estimated that, as of  
29 2021, 6.6 percent of adults aged 18 to 44 have a diagnosed food

1 allergy, and a study conducted between 2015 and 2016 estimated that  
2 approximately 1.8 percent of U.S. adults have a peanut allergy,  
3 specifically. Applying these figures to current population data,  
4 one can estimate that Michigan is home to nearly 500,000 adults  
5 with a food allergy, including over 140,000 adults with a peanut  
6 allergy. Opening up medical waivers to these individuals would  
7 increase the pool of potential applicants for military service; and

8       Whereas, Expanding the availability of medical waivers for  
9 food allergies could also help address the recruiting crisis in the  
10 United States military. On multiple occasions over the past few  
11 years, branches of the Armed Forces have failed to meet their  
12 recruitment goals. The ongoing struggle to sustain our fighting  
13 force is evidence that there is a substantial need to expand the  
14 pool of eligible applicants to guarantee the safety of our nation;  
15 now, therefore, be it

16       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
17 United States Armed Forces to expand the use of medical waivers for  
18 recruits with food allergies, including allergies to peanuts; and  
19 be it further

20       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
21 United States Secretary of Defense.