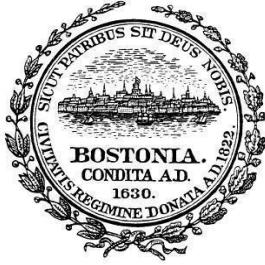


**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN,
FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN,
SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL**



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE HERO ACT

WHEREAS: Last November, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey filed an act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Servicemembers and Veterans, known as the HERO Act at the State House; *and*

WHEREAS: The HERO Act includes 17 comprehensive spending and policy initiatives, tax credits and statute changes that are aimed at improving veterans' welfare, in the areas of benefits expansion, a commitment to inclusivity and greater representation, and the modernization of Veterans Services; *and*

WHEREAS: Among those initiatives, there are increases to the Executive Office of Veterans Services' (EOVS) Disabled Veteran Annuity, with increases in annual annuity from \$2,000 to \$2,500 phased in two fiscal years; expansions to Behaviour Health Treatment access for veterans; expansions to property tax exemption for veterans; increases of tax credits for small businesses who hire unemployed or low-income veterans; support for women and those in the LGBTQ communities through the creation of a pilot program to those who have been denied IVF reimbursements; and expansions of the Veterans Equality Review Board (VERB) language to cover additional protected classes; to name a few; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2018-2022, there are 260,000 veterans living in the State of Massachusetts, and many veterans, who are disabled and aging, have difficulty finding employment and staying employed. These veterans rely on the U.S. Veterans Affairs, EOVS benefits, and the City of Boston Veteran Services to support their needs; *and*

WHEREAS: With the proposed HERO Act and its initiatives and changes, this would modernize and bring substantial updates to the benefits, care, requirements that would meet the needs of our veterans today; *and*

WHEREAS: We must recognize the challenges our veterans face when returning home and provide them with the necessary health care, support, and resources. Their services and contributions are indispensable to our nation and we have a duty to protect and care for them; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council supports the HERO Act and register support for its passage in the State House.

Filed on: January 31, 2024