

**Resolution Opposing the Dekalb Marine Corp Institute  
June 1, 2009**

WHEREAS, the United States has ratified the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*, which requires that “[e]ach State Party shall deposit a binding declaration upon ratification of or accession to the present Protocol that sets forth the minimum age at which it will permit voluntary recruitment into its national armed forces and a description of the safeguards it has adopted to ensure that such recruitment is not forced or coerced”; and

WHEREAS, at ratification, the United States entered a binding declaration that set seventeen as the absolute minimum age for military recruitment; and

WHEREAS, the prevailing international standard is to prohibit the voluntary recruitment of persons under the age of eighteen into the military, as evidenced by 89 of 128 States Parties to the Optional Protocol declaring eighteen as the minimum age for recruitment, and as evidenced by the recommendations of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, a body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. military continues to engage in tactics designed to recruit students under the age of seventeen, despite its binding obligation to only recruit persons seventeen and older; and

WHEREAS, the Dekalb County Marine Corp Institute will be funded in part by the Marine Corps out of its recruitment budget, will expose students under the age of seventeen to military discipline, military culture, and military training, and could become a pipeline for targeted minority recruitment into the military; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has called upon the United States to refrain from using the educational system to promote the military or military type training for young children, and has also called upon the United States not to permit military recruiting which targets racial and ethnic minorities and children of low-income families and other vulnerable socio-economic groups – as such activities run counter to the object and purpose of the Optional Protocol; and

WHEREAS, similar schools in Chicago have not shown better performance in graduation rates or test scores than the Illinois state average; and

WHEREAS, the money being spent to establish the Dekalb County Marine Corps Institute would be better spent on improving Dekalb County's existing schools;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dekalb County Board of Education cease all current and future plans to establish the Dekalb County Marine Corps Institute or any other educational institutions administered or financed in part by any division of the United States Armed Forces.