A RESOLUTION

Ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

1. WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the “Convention”) on May 5, 1993; and

2. WHEREAS, the Convention provides in article 38, paragraph 3, that States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities, and that the States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces; and

3. WHEREAS, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (the “Protocol”), which the Federated States of Micronesia signed pending ratification on May 8, 2002, cited inter alia that an optional protocol to the Convention raising the age of possible recruitment of persons into armed forces and their participation in hostilities will contribute effectively to the implementation of the principle that the best interests of the children are to be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children; and

4. WHEREAS, the Protocol explicitly provides in article 2 that States Parties shall ensure that persons who have not attained the
age of eighteen years are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the Protocol further requires States Parties to raise the minimum age for the voluntary recruitment of persons into their national armed forces from fifteen years as set out in article 38, paragraph 3, of the Convention, taking account of the principles contained in that article and recognizing that under the Convention persons under eighteen years are entitled to special protection; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Nation to provide further protection for Micronesian children to keep them free from the hazards arising out of any armed hostilities in a manner and in accordance with the terms set forth in the Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the accession of the Federated States of Micronesia to the terms of the Protocol will further enhance the commitment of the Nation as expressed in its ratification of the Convention to strengthen protection of the rights and welfare of children;

now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fifth Regular Session, 2010, that the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict is hereby ratified;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President is hereby encouraged to take such steps as are necessary or required to
register the ratification by the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia as expressed in this resolution to the depository of the Convention and the Protocol; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and to the Governors of the four States.

Date: 9/10/10

Introduced by: /s/ Joe N. Suka

Joe N. Suka
(by request)