

A-Engrossed House Joint Memorial 9

Ordered by the House March 13
Including House Amendments dated March 13

Sponsored by Representatives SHIELDS, HOLVEY, ROSENBAUM, Senator GORDLY; Representatives BARNHART, BONAMICI, BOONE, BUCKLEY, CANNON, CLEM, COWAN, DINGFELDER, D EDWARDS, GALIZIO, GELSER, GREENLICK, HUNT, KOMP, KOTEK, MACPHERSON, MERKLEY, NATHANSON, READ, RILEY, ROBLAN, TOMEI, WITT, Senators MONROE, WALKER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Urges President of United States not to increase numbers of troops in Iraq. Calls on Congress to pass legislation [*prohibiting*] **that limits** President from increasing numbers of troops without Congressional approval. Calls on President and Congress to withdraw troops from Iraq and redeploy troops not later than [*August 1, 2007*] **first quarter of fiscal year 2008**.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in leg-
5 islative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas hundreds of thousands of members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including
7 those in the National Guard and Reserves, have served with honor and distinction during our na-
8 tion's involvement in Iraq; and

9 Whereas the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly supports the men and women deployed in Iraq
10 and honors the memory of those who have lost their lives in service to our state and country; and

11 Whereas our nation's involvement in Iraq has cost the lives of more than 3,100 U.S. service
12 members, of whom 79 are Oregonians, and has inflicted combat wounds and injuries, psychic trauma
13 and other disabilities on more than 52,000 others; and

14 Whereas our nation's involvement in Iraq has already caused Oregonians and those in other
15 states to suffer disrupted family lives, financial hardships for individuals, families and businesses,
16 interrupted careers and damage to the fabric of civic life in our communities; and

17 Whereas Congress has appropriated more than \$500 billion to date to fund military operations
18 and reconstruction in Iraq, money that could have funded desperately needed education, health care,
19 housing, nutrition and other social services in communities in the United States; and

20 Whereas under our republican form of government, Oregon shares responsibility for \$12 billion
21 in joint programs with the federal government at a time when the administration is cutting the
22 federal commitment to education, transportation, human services, veterans' programs and aid to the
23 most vulnerable citizens in this country; and

24 Whereas the military activities in Iraq have severely strained the capacities of the Armed
25 Forces of the United States, the National Guard and the Reserves; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas the Oregon National Guard has deployed more than 5,300 service members, with more
2 than 900 citizen soldiers seeking mental health care in local communities during a time of shrinking
3 federal services; and

4 Whereas the Oregon National Guard's equipment readiness has dropped below 40 percent, with
5 a shortage of more than 300 trucks critically required to respond to state disasters involving life
6 and limb; and

7 Whereas the President of the United States has proposed an escalation in the number of United
8 States troops deployed in Iraq; and

9 Whereas the additional brigades proposed for deployment to Iraq will be short of personal
10 equipment, enhanced armor protection kits for vehicles and equipment critical to force protection
11 of service members; and

12 Whereas the proposed escalation in the number of troops committed to Iraq will extend tours
13 of duty for Oregon National Guard members and members of the National Guard in other states,
14 thereby adding to the costs that individuals and communities in Oregon and other states have al-
15 ready incurred; and

16 Whereas the vast majority of Americans do not support increasing the number of troops in Iraq;
17 and

18 Whereas most military experts oppose escalation in Iraq and congressional testimony indicates
19 that even the commanding general in Iraq has opposed this strategy; and

20 Whereas legal experts have recognized that Congress has broad authority to limit expansion of
21 United States military commitments and force redeployment of United States armed forces by exer-
22 cising the power of the purse granted to Congress in the United States Constitution; now, therefore,
23 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

24 That we, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the citizens of Oregon, urge the
25 President to refrain from escalating United States involvement in Iraq at a time when the Iraq Study
26 Group, leading military and diplomatic officials and allies around the world are calling for the
27 United States to reduce the number of troops in Iraq and to withdraw from operations; and be it
28 further

29 Resolved, That we, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, call on Congress to oppose this
30 announced increase in the number of troops deployed in Iraq, and to pass legislation that limits the
31 President from spending more taxpayer dollars on such an escalation until such time as the Presi-
32 dent obtains Congressional approval for the escalation; and be it further

33 Resolved, That we, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, urge the President, at a minimum,
34 to obtain explicit approval from Congress before sending more American troops to Iraq; and be it
35 further

36 Resolved, That we, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, call on Congress and the President
37 to announce an expedient plan for the redeployment of the Armed Forces of the United States from
38 Iraq, to expand advisory assistance to the elected government of Iraq and commence direct regional
39 diplomacy as the congressionally approved Iraq Study Group recommends, to begin handing over
40 military operations for the security of Iraq to the government of Iraq and to begin withdrawing
41 United States forces from Iraq and redeploying those forces as soon as possible, but not later than
42 the first quarter of fiscal year 2008; and be it further

43 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to
44 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member
45 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

