

House Joint Memorial 9

Sponsored by Representatives SHIELDS, HOLVEY, ROSENBAUM, Senator GORDLY; Representatives BARNHART, BONAMICI, BOONE, BUCKLEY, CANNON, COWAN, DINGFELDER, D EDWARDS, GALIZIO, GELSER, GREENLICK, HUNT, KOMP, KOTEK, NATHANSON, 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 **as introduced**.

Urges President of United States not to increase numbers of troops in Iraq. Calls on Congress to pass legislation prohibiting 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.

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 3,000 U.S. soldiers,
12 of whom 79 are Oregonians, and has inflicted combat wounds and injuries, psychic trauma and other
13 disabilities on more than 22,000 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 \$357 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 or humanitarian
20 assistance abroad; and

21 Whereas the military occupation of Iraq has severely strained the capacities of the Armed
22 Forces of the United States, the Oregon National Guard and the Reserves; and

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

25 Whereas the proposed escalation in the number of troops committed to Iraq will extend tours
26 of duty for Oregon National Guard members and members of the National Guard in other states,
27 thereby adding to the costs that individuals and communities in Oregon and other states have al-
28 ready incurred; 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 vast majority of Americans do not support increasing the number of troops in Iraq;
2 and

3 Whereas most military experts oppose escalation in Iraq and press reports indicate that even
4 the Joint Chiefs of Staff have opposed this strategy; and

5 Whereas legal experts have recognized that Congress has both broad authority and a long tra-
6 dition of limiting expansions of United States military commitments and forcing redeployments of
7 United States armed forces by exercising the power of the purse granted to Congress in the United
8 States Constitution; now, therefore,

9 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

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

15 Resolved, That we, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, call on Congress not to approve
16 this announced increase in the number of troops deployed in Iraq, but instead to pass legislation
17 that prohibits the President from spending more taxpayer dollars on such an escalation until such
18 time as the President obtains Congressional approval for the escalation; and be it further

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

22 Resolved, That we, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, call on Congress and the President
23 to announce an expedient plan for the redeployment of the Armed Forces of the United States from
24 Iraq, to begin handing over military operations for the security of Iraq to the elected government
25 of Iraq and to begin withdrawing United States forces from Iraq and redeploying those forces as
26 soon as possible, but not later than August 1, 2007; and be it further

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

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