

Senate Joint Memorial 10

Sponsored by Senator WALKER; Senators BATES, CARTER, GORDLY, MONROE, Representatives BARNHART, BUCKLEY, CLEM, COWAN, HOLVEY, KOTEK, NATHANSON, RILEY

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 over 1 million members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including those in
7 the National Guard and the Reserves, have served with honor and distinction during our nation's
8 involvement in Iraq and have valiantly upheld their duty under dire circumstances; 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 3,117 United States
12 soldiers, of whom 79 are Oregonians, and has inflicted combat wounds and injuries, psychic trauma
13 and other disabilities on more than 23,417 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 previous federal budgets that have given priority to funding operations in Iraq have led
22 to cuts in critical block grants to states and have increased the federal debt, which, together with
23 interest on that debt, will likely lead to even larger cuts in funding for critical needs in the states;
24 and

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

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

29 Whereas the proposed escalation in the number of troops committed to Iraq will extend tours
30 of duty for Oregon National Guard members and members of the National Guard in other states,

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 thereby adding to the costs that individuals and communities in Oregon and other states have al-
2 ready incurred; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 Resolved, That we urge the President, at a minimum, to obtain explicit approval from Congress
22 before sending more American troops to Iraq; and be it further

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

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

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