

Enrolled

Senate Memorial 1

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

We, your memorialists, the Senate of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the Oregon Senate and the residents of the State of Oregon strongly support the men and women valiantly serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and all other theaters around the world, and support a successful conclusion to their missions; and

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who are serving or have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families deserve the utmost respect and heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering devotion to duty, service to the nation and selfless sacrifice under the most difficult circumstances; and

Whereas the Oregon Senate and the residents of the State of Oregon recognize, appreciate and are forever thankful for the sacrifices that all of our Oregon and other American troops and their families have made, especially the troops who have given their lives or been wounded to protect our freedoms; and

Whereas at least 3,661 American military personnel, including 83 from Oregon, have given their lives since October 2001 in the hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, over 25,800 have been wounded and tens of thousands have returned home with significant physical and mental health care needs; and

Whereas the unknown timeline of the war in Iraq has stretched thin our National Guard and Reserves, including the approximately 8,400 members of the Oregon National Guard, resulting in 7,350 mobilization orders since 2001 and consequently reducing the readiness level of our National Guard to fully meet its missions, including responding to natural disasters and terrorism and protecting us at home; and

Whereas current and former military and foreign policy leaders and members of Congress have expressed opposition in a bipartisan manner to an increase in the American military presence in Iraq; and

Whereas in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Congress stated that "calendar year 2006 should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased redeployment of United States forces from Iraq"; and

Whereas earlier this year, the administration decided to deploy approximately 29,000 additional United States combat forces to Iraq, supplementing the 150,000 troops already in the field; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Oregon Senate appreciates the efforts of the last Congress, which voted in a bipartisan fashion to encourage significant transition in Iraq.

(2) The Oregon Senate urges the current Congress to exercise its appropriate constitutional authority to oppose the administration's escalation of United States forces in Iraq, and to move the United States toward a phased redeployment of United States forces out of Iraq with a responsible

transition to Iraqi control of Iraq's security and of the personnel and resources necessary to achieve stability in Iraq.

(3) The Oregon Senate calls on the administration and Congress to fully fund all benefits for veterans and their families and to appropriately care for our brave men and women when they return from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and from other combat.

(4) The Oregon Senate and the American people will continue to support and protect the members of the United States Armed Forces and the Oregon National Guard who are serving or who have served bravely and honorably in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

(5) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by Senate May 1, 2007

Secretary of Senate

President of Senate