

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 102

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, the United States Secretary of Defense and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in special session assembled, respectfully request as follows:

Whereas over 4,000 soldiers from the Oregon National Guard have served overseas, with many of those soldiers serving more than one tour of duty; and

Whereas 3,500 additional Oregon National Guard soldiers are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in 2009; and

Whereas the Reserve component of the United States Armed Forces has changed from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve, fully engaged in the global war on terror; and

Whereas Reserve component members face challenges that are inherently different from challenges facing members of the active duty troops; and

Whereas readjustment to civilian life, such as returning to families, hometowns and civilian employment, can be extremely challenging for members of the Reserve components, particularly when members do not have access to the services and resources that allow them to successfully reintegrate into society; and

Whereas a bill to establish the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Act of 2007 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives but the bill has not been enacted or funded; and

Whereas Oregon has instituted a successful reintegration program for members of the Oregon National Guard that is a model for other states to follow but the funds for this program must come from the Oregon National Guard budget; and

Whereas a fully funded federal Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program would allow the Oregon National Guard to hire more staff members; now, therefore,

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

(1) The Congress of the United States is urged to enact and fund the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, which would provide members of the National Guard and the Reserves, and their families, with resources, services, referral and outreach opportunities throughout the deployment cycle.

(2) A copy of this resolution shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House February 21, 2008

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate February 22, 2008

President of Senate