

Senate Joint Memorial 4

Sponsored by Senator METSGER (at the request of Bert Key)

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 Congress to enact legislation that requires all public institutions of higher education and private institutions that receive federal funding to waive mandatory fees and tuition for family members of servicemembers killed or severely disabled in line of duty.

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-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas next to the servicemember, no one has sacrificed more for the liberties enjoyed in this
7 country than the family members of servicemembers killed in the line of duty or severely disabled
8 from injuries received in the line of duty; and

9 Whereas the people of this country recognize their obligation to care for not only the
10 servicemembers who have borne the burden of battle but also for their family members who must
11 now live with a loss or become a servicemember's caregiver; and

12 Whereas the Congress of the United States recognized the importance of education of family
13 members of deceased and severely disabled servicemembers by enacting the Survivors' and Depen-
14 dents' Educational Assistance Program; and

15 Whereas because the costs of a college education continue to escalate, the stipend provided by
16 the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program is insufficient to cover the costs
17 of a college education; and

18 Whereas it is well recognized that for an ordinary middle class American family, it takes two
19 incomes to raise and educate a family; and

20 Whereas while the waiver of mandatory fees and tuition at colleges and universities will not
21 bring back a deceased servicemember or restore the health and well-being of a severely disabled
22 servicemember, it would, when combined with the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assist-
23 ance Program, bring a college education well within reach of the family members of a deceased or
24 severely disabled servicemember; and

25 Whereas Oregon has enacted legislation that provides various forms of mandatory fee and tui-
26 tion waivers for servicemembers; and

27 Whereas a mandatory fee and tuition waiver involves minimal cost because there is often a va-
28 cant seat in almost every college classroom that a family member of a deceased or severely disabled
29 servicemember could fill; and

30 Whereas it has been estimated that there was a return of \$7 for every \$1 invested in the World
31 War II G.I. Bill, and that the return on a virtually cost-free investment in mandatory fee and tuition

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 waivers has the potential of an even greater return; and

2 Whereas a nationwide mandatory fee and tuition waiver will not eliminate the education deficit
3 in this country, but it will put deserving students in college classrooms; now, therefore,

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

5 (1) The Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to enact
6 legislation that requires all public institutions of higher education and private institutions of higher
7 education that receive federal funding to waive mandatory fees and tuition for family members of
8 servicemembers killed or severely disabled in the line of duty.

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

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