

Senate Joint Memorial 1

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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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Urges Congress to protect rights of armed forces and their families. (Flesch Readability Score: 72.6).

Urges Congress to conduct public hearings on anti-military bias and improve enforcement of hate-crime protections for military families.

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 Eighty-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legisla-
5 tive session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas the State of Oregon is obligated to "ensure the human dignity of all people within this
7 state and protect their health, safety and morals from the consequences of intergroup hostility,
8 tensions and practices of unlawful discrimination of any kind" (ORS 659A.003); and

9 Whereas Americans are entitled under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Consti-
10 tution to "equal protection of the laws" of our nation; and

11 Whereas section 4712 of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act
12 of 2009, known as the Soldiers Amendment (18 U.S.C. 1389), includes protections for military fami-
13 lies; and

14 Whereas a hate or bias crime likely occurred in Oregon when American Legion Post 10 in
15 Albany was burned to the ground on July 4, 2010; and

16 Whereas the United States Department of Justice has chosen not to charge multiple domestic
17 terrorists for hate crimes under 18 U.S.C. 1389; and

18 Whereas criminal enhancements for hate crimes are necessary because a crime motivated by
19 bias "devastates not just the actual victim and the family and friends of the victim, but frequently
20 savages the community sharing the traits that caused the victim to be selected" (34 U.S.C. 30501);
21 and

22 Whereas military families, by their sacrifice of blood, sweat and tears, secure American rights
23 and freedoms while being at elevated risk of suicide; and

24 Whereas hate crimes against military families cannot be deterred without public awareness of
25 the anti-military bias motivating them; and

26 Whereas failing to enforce 18 U.S.C. 1389 deprives military families of their civil rights; and

27 Whereas the United States Department of Justice has previously ignored a Congressional in-
28 quiry from Representative David Trone of Maryland on this matter; 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 Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon sent a Congressional inquiry to United States Attorney
2 General Merrick Garland on this matter on October 4, 2024, but to date no action has been taken
3 in response to that inquiry; and

4 Whereas Oregon law enforcement agencies cannot meaningfully fulfill their statutory obligations
5 without federal guidance and support, which the United States Department of Justice has not pro-
6 vided regarding 18 U.S.C. 1389; now, therefore,

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

8 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress
9 of the United States to conduct public hearings on anti-military bias and improve enforcement of
10 hate-crime protections for military families; and be it further

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

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