
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4040

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Ogden, Romero and Cole

Read first time 02/17/98. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Although we believe that the United States should retain
9 its position as the strongest military nation in the world, we also
10 believe that the security of our nation is fundamentally not on
11 military might, but on the well-being and vitality of our citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, Programs which sustain and improve the health, education,
13 affordable housing, environmental protection, and safety of our
14 citizens are being transferred from the federal to the state
15 governments; and

16 WHEREAS, The funds being provided by the federal government to the
17 states are insufficient to fulfill these responsibilities; and

18 WHEREAS, The seven countries currently identified as our potential
19 adversaries have a combined military budget of fifteen million dollars,
20 while the United States military budget for 1997 is two hundred sixty-
21 five billion dollars; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States military budget remains at cold-war
2 levels and contains: Eleven billion four hundred thousand dollars not
3 requested by the Pentagon, twenty-five billion dollars for ten thousand
4 nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and forty billion dollars
5 excess of what many former military leaders and leading business
6 executives consider sufficient; and

7 WHEREAS, Current Pentagon spending outweighs all military threats,
8 and creates fewer jobs than increased spending on domestic programs
9 would deliver; and

10 WHEREAS, Shifting funds from the military to repairing our
11 infrastructure would dramatically improve the well-being of our
12 citizens and strengthen our ability to compete successfully in the
13 world market;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that sufficient
15 amounts of money be redirected from the military budget to the several
16 states so that we can meet the critical needs of rebuilding our
17 communities and inner cities, repairing our schools, educating our
18 children, eliminating hunger, providing housing, improving
19 transportation, protecting our environment, and obtaining a decent
20 level of health care and safety for all of our citizens, thereby
21 increasing fundamentally our security and well-being.

22 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
23 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
24 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
25 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
26 State of Washington.

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