
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8051

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Roach, Swecker, Hale and T. Sheldon

Read first time 02/02/2004. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 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, The security of our nation and people is the first and
9 foremost obligation of the United States federal government; and

10 WHEREAS, The men and women of our United States armed forces now
11 serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,
12 Merchant Marines, National Guard, and Reserves have shown great courage
13 and self-sacrifice and deserve to be equipped with the best weapons and
14 resources to protect our nation; and

15 WHEREAS, In past years politicians have delayed passing the defense
16 appropriations bill until late in the budget year so that the defense
17 appropriations bill was misused as a dumping ground for pork barrel
18 spending and as a political hostage to pork barrel spending in other
19 appropriations bills; and

1 WHEREAS, In the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks
2 on America, President Bush asked that the Congress of the United States
3 pass the defense appropriations bill before passing other spending
4 bills; and

5 WHEREAS, Congress acted responsibly in the Spring of 2002 when it
6 passed the defense appropriations bill first, thereby protecting the
7 men and women in our armed forces from becoming pawns for politicians'
8 spending maneuvers;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists commend Congress for making our
10 nation's defense its first priority in 2002, and respectfully pray that
11 our elected Senators and Representatives in the United States Congress
12 continue this important tradition by passing and enacting the defense
13 appropriations legislation before all other spending bills in 2004 and
14 in future years.

15 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
16 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
17 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
19 Washington.

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