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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Swecker, Delvin and Stevens

Read first time 01/24/2005. 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 our 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 terrorist attacks of September 11,  
2 2001, on America, President Bush asked that the Congress of the United  
3 States pass the defense appropriations bill before passing other  
4 spending bills; and

5       WHEREAS, Congress acted responsibly in the 2002, 2003, and 2004  
6 budgets when it passed the defense appropriations bill first, thereby  
7 protecting the men and women in our armed forces from becoming pawns  
8 for politicians' spending maneuvers;

9       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists commend Congress for making our  
10 nation's defense its first priority in 2002, 2003, and 2004, and  
11 request that the Representatives and Senators from our state continue  
12 this important tradition by passing and enacting the defense  
13 appropriations legislation before all other spending bills in 2005 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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