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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4004

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson, Hurst, Dunshee, Darneille, Williams, Upthegrove, Dickerson, Sells, Hasegawa, Green, McIntire, Conway, Clibborn, Cody, Moeller, Eddy, Haigh, Schual-Berke, Ericks, Flannigan, Ormsby, Hunt, Hudgins, Kessler, Kagi, Kenney, Santos, Goodman and Quall

Read first time 01/23/2007.                      Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

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 President has proposed an escalation in the number of  
9            United States troops deployed in Iraq; and

10            WHEREAS, United States involvement in Iraq has resulted in the  
11            deaths of more than 3,000 United States soldiers and the wounding and  
12            disabling of more than 22,000 United States military personnel to date;  
13            and

14            WHEREAS, This proposed escalation will further extend National  
15            Guard tours in Iraq, the costs to the states of the call-up of National  
16            Guard members for deployment in Iraq have been significant, as reckoned  
17            in lost lives, combat injuries and psychic trauma, disruption of family  
18            life, financial hardship for individuals, families, and businesses,  
19            interruption of careers, and damage to the fabric of civic life in our  
20            communities; and

1           WHEREAS, The American troops have valiantly upheld their duty in  
2 Iraq under dire circumstances; and

3           WHEREAS, More than 357 billion dollars has been appropriated by  
4 Congress to fund military operations and reconstruction in Iraq to  
5 date, money that could fund desperately needed education, health care,  
6 housing, nutrition, and other social services in our communities in the  
7 United States or humanitarian assistance abroad; and

8           WHEREAS, Previous budgets that have prioritized Iraq have led to  
9 cuts in critical block grants for states and have increased the federal  
10 debt, which compounded by interest payments, will likely lead to even  
11 larger cuts in funding for critical needs in the states; and

12           WHEREAS, Polls show that the vast majority of Americans do not  
13 support increasing the number of troops in Iraq; and

14           WHEREAS, Most military experts oppose escalation in Iraq and press  
15 reports indicate that even the Joint Chiefs of Staff have opposed such  
16 a strategy; and

17           WHEREAS, Legal experts on all sides have determined that Congress  
18 has not only broad authority, but a long tradition of limiting  
19 escalation or forcing redeployment of troops through the  
20 Constitutionally designate power of the purse;

21           NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists, on behalf of the citizens of the  
22 state of Washington, respectfully pray that, in a period when the Iraq  
23 Study Group, leading military and diplomatic officials, and allies  
24 around the world are calling for a reduction in troops and withdrawal  
25 of the United States from Iraq, the United States government should not  
26 escalate its involvement in Iraq or increase troop levels.

27           BE IT RESOLVED, That, at a minimum, the President should obtain  
28 explicit approval from Congress if he wants to send more American  
29 troops to Iraq; and

30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress should pass legislation  
31 prohibiting the President from spending taxpayer dollars on an  
32 escalation in Iraq, unless the President first seeks Congressional  
33 approval; and

34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
35 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
36 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the

1 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
2 Washington.

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