

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 19

## 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1687L.021

1 **Whereas**, President George W. Bush has proposed an escalation in the number of  
2 United States troops deployed in Iraq; and  
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4 **Whereas**, United States involvement in Iraq has resulted in the deaths of more than  
5 3,000 United States soldiers and the wounding and disabling of more than 22,000 United States  
6 military personnel to date; and  
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8 **Whereas**, the war and subsequent civil war between Iraqi religious factions has led  
9 to at least 55,000 Iraqi civilian deaths, with others estimating as much as ten times that number,  
10 which threatens to engulf our troops in an ever escalating cycle of violence and reprisals; and  
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12 **Whereas**, this proposed escalation will further extend National Guard tours in Iraq,  
13 that the costs to the states of the call-up of National Guard members for deployment in Iraq have  
14 been significant, as reckoned in lost lives, combat injuries and psychic trauma, disruption of  
15 family life, financial hardship for individuals, families and businesses, interruption of careers and  
16 damage to the fabric of civic life in our communities; and  
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18 **Whereas**, the American troops have valiantly upheld their duty in Iraq under dire  
19 circumstances; and  
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21 **Whereas**, more than \$357 billion has been appropriated by Congress to fund  
22 military operations and reconstruction in Iraq to date, money that could fund desperately needed  
23 education, health care, housing, nutrition, and other social services in our communities in the  
24 United States or humanitarian assistance abroad; and  
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26       **Whereas**, previous budgets that have prioritized Iraq have led to cuts in critical  
27 block grants for states and have increased the federal debt, which compounded by interest  
28 payments, will likely lead to even larger cuts in funding for critical needs in the States; and  
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30       **Whereas**, polls show that the vast majority of Americans do not support increasing  
31 the number of troops in Iraq; and  
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33       **Whereas**, most military experts oppose escalation in Iraq and press reports indicate  
34 that even the Joint Chiefs of Staff have opposed such a strategy; and  
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36       **Whereas**, legal experts on all sides have determined that Congress has not only  
37 broad authority, but a long tradition of limiting escalation or forcing redeployment of troops  
38 through the Constitutionally-designate power of the purse:  
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40       **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
41 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
42 concurring therein, hereby urges, on behalf of its citizens, that in a period when the Iraq Study  
43 Group, leading military and diplomatic officials and allies around the world are calling for a  
44 reduction in troops and withdrawal of the United States from Iraq, the United States government  
45 should not escalate its involvement in Iraq or increase troop levels; and  
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47       **Be it further resolved** that, at a minimum, the President should obtain  
48 explicit approval from Congress if he wants to send more American troops to Iraq; and  
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50       **Be it further resolved** that the Congress should pass legislation prohibiting  
51 the President from spending taxpayer dollars on an escalation in Iraq unless he first seeks  
52 Congressional approval; and  
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54       **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
55 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for George  
56 W. Bush, President of the United States, and to each member of the Missouri Congressional  
57 delegation.

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