

House Concurrent Resolution No. 23

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1630L.011

1 **Whereas**, after the Vietnam War, the United States Congress created the stop loss
2 program, which is the involuntary extension of a military member's active duty service under his
3 or her enlistment contract in order to retain military personnel beyond their initial end-of-term
4 service (ETS) date; and

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6 **Whereas**, this stop loss program has been used in the first Persian Gulf War, during
7 military deployments in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo, and during the September 11, 2001,
8 terrorist attacks and the subsequent War on Terror; and

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10 **Whereas**, the use of stop loss service has been criticized by activists and some
11 politicians as an abuse of the spirit of the law, on the basis that Congress has not formally
12 declared war, such as in the case of the Iraq War; and

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14 **Whereas**, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, as one of his first acts, issued a
15 memorandum compelling commanders to "minimize" the stop-losing of soldiers; and

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17 **Whereas**, the United States Army currently allows enlisted soldiers facing stop loss
18 to voluntarily separate by request, but only after the soldier has completed an involuntary
19 deployment of twelve to fifteen months and ninety days of stabilization time; and

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21 **Whereas**, despite Secretary Gates' order, by April 2008 use of stop loss has
22 increased by 43%. Soldiers affected by stop loss were then serving, on average, an extra 6.6
23 months, with sergeants through sergeants first class making up 45% of these soldiers; and

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25 **Whereas**, from 2002 through April 2008, 58,200 soldiers were affected by stop
26 loss, or approximately 1% of active duty, Reserve, and National Guard troops:

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28 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
29 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
30 concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to enact legislation formally
31 ending or strictly limiting the application of the Department of Defense Stop Loss Program
32 which involuntarily extends the active duty service obligation of military personnel; and

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34 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
35 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Barack
36 Obama, President of the United States; Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense; the Majority and
37 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives; and
38 each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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