

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

House Concurrent Resolution No. 13

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5423H.03C

2 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri has a long history of supporting the military in their
3 mission to protect the American people; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Whiteman Air Force Base, home to the 442nd Fighter Wing, is dedicated
6 to delivering dynamic air power for the United States and acting as both a powerful deterrent to
7 enemies and as an assurance to American citizens and allies; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, the 442nd Fighter Wing has a rich legacy of defending the United States and
10 its allies through its involvement in World War II, the Cold War, Operation Desert Storm,
11 Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the 442nd is to maintain and support the A-10 Thunderbolt
14 II at the highest level of combat readiness; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, the A-10 Thunderbolt II is the Air Force's only fighter plane designed for
17 close-air support providing critical front-line support for American forces on the ground and
18 conducting combat search and rescue missions; and
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20 **WHEREAS**, the A-10 Thunderbolt II is vital to providing Missouri civilian and military
21 jobs as the 442nd Fighter Wing is the largest tenant unit at Whiteman Air Force Base and has a
22 payroll of around \$40 million dollars, a personnel force of 1,100 people, and an economic impact
23 of millions of dollars in the local community; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, newly proposed federal budget cuts for the Department of Defense would
26 impact the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade, which has three units located in Missouri; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade includes the 1-135th Aviation Battalion,
29 located at Whiteman Airforce Base, which conducts attack reconnaissance, security operations
30 that compliment other maneuver forces, and has 24 AH-64 D Apache Longbow attack
31 helicopters assigned to it; and
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33 **WHEREAS**, the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade includes the 3-135th Aviation Battalion,
34 located in Lebanon, Missouri, which provides mission command, administration, and logistics
35 support; and
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37 **WHEREAS**, the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade includes the 935th Aviation Support
38 Battalion, located in Springfield and Warrensburg, Missouri, which provides maintenance,
39 maneuver, signal, and logistics support; and
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41 **WHEREAS**, the impact of the proposed budget cuts would result in a loss of over \$34
42 million dollars and over 400 military personnel:
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44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
45 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
46 concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Air Force not to eliminate the A-10
47 Thunderbolt II aircraft fleet and strongly urge the United States Department of Defense to
48 reconsider its proposed budget cuts to find a solution that fully takes into account national
49 security needs as well as state domestic response obligations; and
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51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
52 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
53 Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force, and each member of Missouri's
54 congressional delegation.

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