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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Benton and Roach

Read first time 02/05/97. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE 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 defense of our grand Republic and the freedoms we have  
9 derived therefrom were purchased by the sacrifices of our Armed Forces  
10 of our nation; and

11 WHEREAS, Our Military Forces are trained to preserve and defend the  
12 Constitution of the United States and the citizens; and be capable of  
13 accomplishing their mission to be successful in combat defending our  
14 inalienable rights as Americans; and

15 WHEREAS, Since the undeclared end of the Cold War, our Armed Forces  
16 have been drained to a potentially dangerous level by downsizing in  
17 personnel strengths and commitments to missions other than war, thereby  
18 decreasing our military capability to be prepared to confront a  
19 potential enemy or foe and to repel and deter their objectives on  
20 simultaneous fronts in our realm of economic, political, or defense  
21 posturing interests of the United States; and

1       WHEREAS, The number of nondeployable combat trained personnel is  
2 increasing at an alarming rate, thereby further decreasing our  
3 operational readiness capability for wartime preparedness, coupled with  
4 the reduction of our National Guard and Reserve strengths, two major  
5 contributing factors to our readiness; and

6       WHEREAS, The Congress is constitutionally empowered to raise,  
7 maintain, and appropriate funds for Armies, Navies, and Militias  
8 including the Washington Military and Reserves, and provide for the  
9 defense of this nation and its international scopes of interest;

10       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists are deeply concerned with the  
11 operational capabilities of our Armed Forces, their welfare, and the  
12 defense of this great nation, we implore and plead that the Congress  
13 exercise to their fullest extent their constitutional mandate to  
14 retain, restore, and appropriate necessary funding to maintain a viable  
15 combat-ready Armed Forces, in a perpetual wartime posture and a  
16 secondary force capable of providing for operations other than war for  
17 humanitarian or peacekeeping missions around the globe.

18       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
19 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
20 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
21 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
22 State of Washington.

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