
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8014

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Senators Chase and Tom

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1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 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, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
5 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH STATE'S
6 LEGISLATURE:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, Our State, as most others, faces the most severe economic
11 crisis since the Great Depression; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics cites an
13 October 2011 unemployment rate of 9 percent in the State of Washington,
14 yet closer to 30 percent are unemployed if residents who have exhausted
15 their benefits and given up hope of finding a job are counted; and

16 WHEREAS, The poverty rate in Washington State is 11.7 percent; and

17 WHEREAS, State support for community-based businesses that hire
18 locally, and the ability of workers to earn wages that exceed a
19 subsistence rate, are keys to economic recovery in Washington State;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, Since fiscal year 2001, taxpayers in the State of
2 Washington have paid 26 billion dollars toward the total spending for
3 the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

4 WHEREAS, Taxpayers in the State of Washington will pay an
5 additional 3.5 billion dollars toward total Iraq and Afghanistan war
6 spending for fiscal year 2011, bringing the total war spending bill for
7 Washington State taxpayers to 29.5 billion dollars; and

8 WHEREAS, One year of taxpayer war spending dollars could have
9 alternately built our state infrastructure by creating 48,461 school
10 teacher jobs, hiring 45,205 firefighters, creating enough jobs to
11 convert 1.3 million households to solar energy, creating 42,585 new
12 police or sheriff's patrol officer positions, or providing 113,000
13 four-year university scholarships; and

14 WHEREAS, 11.7 percent of soldiers who fought in Iraq and
15 Afghanistan are unemployed, with many having inadequate support to
16 adjust to civilian life; and

17 WHEREAS, Counties with military facilities are experiencing the
18 highest foreclosure rates in Washington State, and the already high
19 number of homeless veterans is increasing; and

20 WHEREAS, In February 2011, the State Legislature passed House Bill
21 No. 1432 relating to veterans' relief by permitting private employers
22 to exercise a voluntary veterans' preference in employment; and

23 WHEREAS, For every 1 billion dollars spent on the military 11,600
24 jobs are created; yet for the same 1 billion dollars 17,100 jobs are
25 created by investments in clean energy, 19,600 jobs are created by
26 funding health care, or 29,100 jobs are created from spending on
27 education; and

28 WHEREAS, United States military spending has more than doubled
29 since 2000; and

30 WHEREAS, The proposed fiscal year 2012 military budget is 703
31 billion dollars, with military spending by other agencies raising that
32 total to more than 1 trillion dollars; and

33 WHEREAS, Adjusting for inflation, the level of funding proposed for
34 the base defense budget in the fiscal year 2012 request comprises 60
35 percent of the national discretionary budget, the highest level since
36 World War II; and

37 WHEREAS, The United States military budget presently represents 43

1 percent of worldwide military spending, distantly followed by China
2 (7.3 percent of world share), the United Kingdom (3.7 percent), France
3 (3.6 percent), and Russia (3.6 percent); and

4 WHEREAS, The Washington State Governor and Legislature have had to
5 cut nearly 10.5 billion dollars from current and projected spending
6 with another 1.4 billion dollars in reductions looming, resulting in
7 significant job losses and cuts to vital programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Projected revenues for Washington State continue to
9 plummet, depleting our state reserves; and

10 WHEREAS, This drain on the public treasury is bleeding our state
11 and forcing increasingly severe cuts in vital social programs and
12 public services, resulting in the inability of state government to
13 support job creation and meet the most basic needs of our people, while
14 producing ever-greater debt that will be borne by future generations;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
16 States Congress and the President change course by ending the war in
17 Afghanistan: Dramatically shifting our national priorities to create
18 stable jobs at living wages for all who seek employment; restoring
19 vital social programs and public services; rebuilding our nation's
20 deteriorating infrastructure; and putting our nation on an
21 environmentally sustainable, ecologically responsible path that
22 addresses the challenge of climate change and environmental degradation
23 while reinvigorating jobs and our economy.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
25 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
26 States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives of each state's legislature, the President of the
28 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
29 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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