

California National Guard and the War in Iraq

Resolution calling upon the Governor of California to insure the Pentagon, the President and Congress take immediate steps to withdraw California National Guard troops from Iraq by Labor Day.

WHEREAS, The _____ & its citizens strongly
(city, state, organization, board, individual of...)

support the women & men serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and recognize the sacrifices that each of them is making. The _____ and its citizens stand ready to help these Californians in any way they can and,

WHEREAS, in October 2002 the United States Congress adopted a Joint Resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq, relying on statements that were untrue, when in fact the United States:

- was not threatened with attack by Iraq,
- Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction,
- Saddam Hussein had no role in the 9/11 attacks.

WHEREAS, in going to war, the President did not meet the conditions imposed by Congress, failing to show Congress why he:

- decided that diplomatic or peaceful means alone would not protect the national security of the United States or lead to enforcement of security Council resolutions on Iraq,
- decided that going to war was a necessary proven—that Iraq authorized, committed, or aided in the 9/11 attacks

WHEREAS, the war has resulted in serious and potentially long-lasting consequences for the United States and limited the chances for a just and durable peace in Iraq and the Middle East and,

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power to “provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections and repel invasions,” and the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, and the Governor of California to direct the training and arming of members of the California National Guard for defense of the State and,

WHEREAS, at least since 1986 the President and Congress have had nearly total control over state militias, including the California National Guard and,

WHEREAS, the costs of the call-up of California National Guard members for deployment in Iraq have been significant, as reckoned in lost lives, combat injuries, psychic trauma, disruption of family life, financial hardship for individuals, families, and businesses, interruption of careers, and damage to the fabric of civic life in many California communities and,

WHEREAS, these are costs which would be suffered willingly were there a threat to our nation, but which are not tolerable where there is none and,

WHEREAS, Californians have joined the Guard thinking that they would be serving their neighbors by helping with California-based emergencies, unless there was a danger to America requiring transfer to active duty and,

WHEREAS, stop-loss orders violate the mutual understanding between Californians in the Guard and the state and nation they agreed to serve and,

WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that the federalization and deployment of National Guard members has rendered the remaining Guard force unable to carry out its state activities effectively; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the _____
request the members of California's Congressional Delegation to urge Congress to restore the balance between the federal government and the states, limiting the nearly complete federal control over State National Guard units to cases:

Where there is an insurrection or a plausible threat of insurrection; or

Where there is a declaration of war under the United States Constitution;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the _____
calls upon the Governor of California to insure the Pentagon, the President and Congress take immediate steps to withdraw California National Guard troops from Iraq by Labor Day 2005 and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the _____
send a copy of this Resolution to each member of the California Congressional Delegation, the California Governor, the Speaker of the California Assembly, and the President Pro Tempore of the California Senate