

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
20 AN INCREASE OF FEDERAL FUNDING TO THE UNITED STATES
30 MILITARY

40 WHEREAS: The purpose of the United States Military is to defend and uphold the freedom
50 of every citizen in this country; and,

60 WHEREAS: Recent events, including the attack on America on September 11, 2001, require
70 an increase in military support nationwide, as well as worldwide; and,

80 WHEREAS: Such events are a strain on not only the economies of the United States and the
90 military branches beholden to the national economy, but also to the individual
100 soldier who now faces increased levels of stress, fatigue, and concerns about the
110 immediate future; and,

120 WHEREAS: Soldiers who enter basic training now make a base salary of approximately
130 \$11,500; and,

140 WHEREAS: The current poverty threshold for the 2002 year, as estimated by the U.S.
150 Department of Health and Human Services, is \$15,020 for a family of three, and
160 increases with every additional family member; and,

170 WHEREAS: This threshold places many military families below the poverty line and they are
180 therefore eligible for government welfare programs such as project Head Start
190 and Food Stamp programs; and,

200 WHEREAS: This current situation of poverty among U.S. soldiers and the welfare given to
210 them and their families is costly to the United States economy; and,

220 WHEREAS: The salary given to the soldier who enters basic training is held most acceptable
230 to the poor of this nation and subsequently, the military becomes an inherently
240 discriminatory organization when it is those soldiers who are sent into battle
250 first; and,

260 WHEREAS: The increased stress of poverty is detrimental not only to the personal lives of
270 the soldier and his/her family but also to that soldiers performance in the field;
280 and,

290 WHEREAS: The United States Military has proven itself to be superior to every other
300 military in the world, yet is hindered by lack of funding; and,

310 WHEREAS: This lack of funding is negatively affecting the United States Army's readiness
320 and ability to respond to the many challenges that face the defense of the nation
330 in so many varying theaters of operation.

340 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States
350 Congress to increase the budget for U.S. service personnel and for the housing
360 provided to them from \$80 billion and \$4 billion to \$94 billion and \$6 billion,
370 respectively, to combat this burden to U.S. soldiers and consequently every
380 United States citizen.

390 MANDATES: President George W. Bush
400 Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
410 House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt

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Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle
Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott

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