

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1605

By Senator Betts

1-26

9 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the President and
10 Congress in opposition to the escalation of the country's involvement
11 in Iraq.

12
13 WHEREAS, The President has proposed an escalation in the number
14 of U.S. troops deployed in Iraq; and

15 WHEREAS, U.S. involvement in Iraq has resulted in the deaths of
16 more than 3,000 U.S. soldiers and the wounding and disabling of more
17 than 22,000 U.S. military personnel to date; and

18 WHEREAS, This proposed escalation will further extend National
19 Guard tours in Iraq, that the costs to the states of the call-up of National
20 Guard members for deployment in Iraq have been significant, as reck-
21 oned in lost lives, combat injuries and psychic trauma, disruption of family
22 life, financial hardship for individuals, families and businesses, interrup-
23 tion of careers and damage to the fabric of civic life in our communities;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The American troops have valiantly upheld their duty in
26 Iraq under dire circumstances; and

27 WHEREAS, More than \$357 billion has been appropriated by Con-
28 gress to fund military operations and reconstruction in Iraq to date,
29 money that could fund desperately needed education, health care, hous-
30 ing, nutrition and other social services in our communities in the United
31 States or humanitarian assistance abroad; and

32 WHEREAS, Previous budgets that have prioritized Iraq have led to
33 cuts in critical block grants for states and have increased the federal debt,
34 which compounded by interest payments, will likely lead to even larger
35 cuts in funding for critical needs in the States; and

36 WHEREAS, Polls show that the vast majority of Americans do not
37 support increasing the number of troops in Iraq; and

38 WHEREAS, Most military experts oppose escalation in Iraq and press
39 reports indicate that even the Joint Chiefs of Staff have opposed such a
40 strategy; and

41 WHEREAS, Legal experts on all sides have determined that Congress
42 has not only broad authority, but a long tradition of limiting escalation or
43 forcing redeployment of troops through the Constitutionally-designated

1 power of the purse.

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*
3 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the Kansas legislature memorial-
4 izes the President and the United States Congress that in a period when
5 the Iraq Study Group, leading military and diplomatic officials and allies
6 around the world are calling for a reduction in troops and withdrawal of
7 the U.S. from Iraq, the United States government should not escalate its
8 involvement in Iraq or increase troop levels; and

9 *Be it further resolved:* That, at a minimum, the President should ob-
10 tain explicit approval from Congress if he wants to send more American
11 troops to Iraq; and

12 *Be it further resolved:* That the Congress should pass legislation pro-
13 hibiting the President from spending taxpayer dollars on an escalation in
14 Iraq unless he first seeks Congressional approval; and

15 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State send an enrolled
16 copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, President of
17 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Rep-
18 resentatives and each member of the Kansas legislative delegation.