

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1804

By Senator Steineger

1-9

9 A RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States to
10 limit its salary increases to that of the average family income.

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12 WHEREAS, In 2004 the median household income in the country was
13 \$44,389. This amount was unchanged in real median household income
14 from 2003 or 2002. In fact, in the past 25 years real median household
15 income has increased a total of only 35%; and

16 WHEREAS, The annual salary of a member of congress in 2004 was
17 \$158,100; a member's salary 25 years ago was \$30,000 resulting in an
18 increase of 527% in the past 25 years; and

19 WHEREAS, The average American's wages are set by the marketplace
20 but members of Congress can set their own salary; and

21 WHEREAS, The efforts of our elected representatives in getting
22 themselves elected, maintaining two households, constant travel between
23 home and Washington and the demands of their public positions justify
24 a lofty salary, a salary that encourages good citizens to be good politicians,
25 and they may well earn their current salary; but the increases in salary
26 they have awarded themselves over the years bears little resemblance to
27 the pay increases received by ordinary Americans; and

28 WHEREAS, The enormous increase in both the federal budget deficit
29 and the United States trade deficit demonstrates poor performance by
30 our United States Congress: Now, therefore,

31 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we memo-
32 rialize the Congress of the United States to limit future increases in their
33 salary to those percentage increases in salary enjoyed by ordinary Amer-
34 icans; and

35 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an
36 enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United States
37 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and
38 to each member of the Kansas legislative delegation.