

10       **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED IRAQ TROOP SURGE OF 2007**

20       **WHEREAS:**     Polls conducted immediately prior to the General Election of 2006 showed a  
30                             substantial majority of Americans expect Democrats to reduce or end American  
40                             military involvement in Iraq if they win control of Congress; and,

50       **WHEREAS:**     This view of the General Election of 2006 as a referendum on the war was  
60                             endorsed by U.S. Representative Nancy P. D. Pelosi, then the Democratic leader  
70                             in House of Representatives, who in the final days of the campaign said “This  
80                             election is about Iraq. If indeed it turns out the way that people expect it to turn  
90                             out, the American people will have spoken, and they will have rejected the  
100                            course of action the president is on;” and,

110      **WHEREAS:**     The news media viewed the Democratic victory in both the U.S. Senate and  
120                             House of Representatives as “punishing President George W. Bush and his  
130                             Republicans over a failing war in Iraq;” and,

140      **WHEREAS:**     On November 17, 2007, ten days following the General Election of 2006,  
150                             Speaker-designate Nancy P. D. Pelosi wrote an opinion editorial in The  
160                             Huffington Post titled "Bringing the War to an End is my Highest Priority as  
170                             Speaker;” and,

180      **WHEREAS:**     On January 5, 2007, reacting to suggestions from President Bush’s confidantes  
190                             that he would increase troop levels in Iraq, Pelosi, now Speaker of the U.S. House of  
200                             Representatives, joined with Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid to condemn the plan.  
210                             They sent Bush a letter saying, “there is no purely military solution in Iraq. There is only  
220                             a political solution. Adding more combat troops will only endanger more Americans and  
230                             stretch our military to the breaking point for no strategic gain. Rather than deploy  
240                             additional forces to Iraq, we believe the way forward is to begin the phased redeployment  
250                             of our forces in the next four to six months, while shifting the principal mission of our  
260                             forces there from combat to training, logistics, force protection and counter-terror;” and,

270      **WHEREAS:**     On January 10, 2007, President Bush officially announced changes in his administration's  
280                             political and military strategy in the Iraq War during a national television speech  
290                             broadcast. In the address Bush stated “America will change our strategy to help the Iraqis  
300                             carry out their campaign to put down sectarian violence and bring security to the people  
310                             of Baghdad. This will require increasing American force levels. So I've committed more  
320                             than 20,000 additional American troops to Iraq;” and,

330      **WHEREAS:**     On January 23, 2007, President Bush delivered the annual State of the Union address in  
340                             which he declared “to win the war on terror, we must take the fight to the enemy” and  
350                             that terrorism had not ended and that it is the government’s duty to locate terrorists and  
360                             protect the American people. He again articulated his plan to increase American troop  
370                             levels in Iraq; and,

380      **WHEREAS:**     On January 31, 2007, Carl M. Levin, a Democrat and senior U.S. Senator from Michigan,  
390                             introduced legislation (S.470) which says the Senate disagrees with the troop surge plan  
400                             to augment our forces by 21,500, and urges the President instead to consider all options  
410                             and alternatives for achieving the strategic goals with reduced force levels than proposed;  
420                             and,

430      **WHEREAS:**     Speaker of the House of Representatives Pelosi and her Democratic colleagues will more  
440                             than likely join their Senate counterparts in approving a nonbinding resolution protesting  
450                             the President’s new Iraq policy of increasing troops; and,

460 **WHEREAS:** Numerous members of the U.S. Senate who are members of President Bush’s own  
470 Republican Party are also opposed to or deeply skeptical of the troop surge plan being  
480 championed by the administration including Samuel D. Brownback of Kansas, Norman  
490 B. Coleman, Jr. of Minnesota, Susan M. Collins and Olympia J. B. Snowe of Maine,  
500 Charles T. Hagel of Nebraska, Gordon H. Smith of Oregon, George V. Voinovich of  
510 Ohio and John W. Warner of Virginia. Even Senate Minority Whip C. Trent Lott, Sr. has  
520 serious doubts about the efficacy of the President’s surge proposal; and,

530 **WHEREAS:** The Congress has the power to cut off funding for American military conflict to which it  
540 is opposed. For example, in 1970, by overwhelming margins, the Congress cut off funds  
550 for the Cambodian incursion, and in 1973, it blocked any funding for further U.S.  
560 military activity in Vietnam. The funding died and the action stopped; and,

570 **WHEREAS:** As of February 2, 2007, there have been approximately 3,089 American military  
580 casualties and over 47,657 injuries reported. 56 of those casualties being Maryland  
590 citizens.

600 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature calls on the U.S. House of  
610 Representatives and the U.S. Senate to abandon their nonbinding resolutions, which serve  
620 as little more than toothless and worthless rebukes of President Bush and his  
630 administration regarding the handling of the Iraq War, the War on Terrorism, and the  
640 planned troop surge; and,

650 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature calls on the Congress, whom  
660 the Constitution and historical precedent gives authority to do so, to cut off funds for the  
670 proposed troop surge; and,

680 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature demands that the democratically  
690 controlled 110th Congress be a “do something” Congress and pass legislation insisting  
700 President Bush provide a plan for a timely exit from Iraq; and,

710 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature, by passing this resolution,  
720 expresses its sincerest opposition to American military involvement in the ongoing  
730 conflict in Iraq and believes that the safety and wellbeing of our troops must take  
740 precedence.

750 **MANDATES:** Honorable George W. Bush, President  
760 Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice President  
770 Honorable Robert M. Gates, Ph.D., Secretary of Defense  
780 Honorable Condoleeza Rice, Ph.D., Secretary of State  
790 Honorable Nancy P.D. Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
800 Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
810 Honorable Harry M. Reid, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
820 Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Majority Whip, U.S. Senate  
830 Honorable John A. Boehner, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
840 Honorable Roy D. Blunt, Minority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives  
850 Honorable Martin J. O’Malley, Governor, Maryland

**SPONSOR:**  
Brian S. Bailey, Governor, Maryland Student Legislature