

By Senator Wright

14-00932-22

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1 Senate Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to impel the United States National
4 Guard Bureau to examine the resource allocations of
5 the Florida National Guard and allow an increase in
6 its force structure.

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8 WHEREAS, the number of soldiers and airmen allocated to
9 each state's National Guard, known as its "force structure," is
10 determined by the United States National Guard Bureau in
11 Washington, D.C., and

12 WHEREAS, with approximately 21 million residents, Florida
13 is the third most populous state in the nation but nevertheless
14 has a force structure of just over 12,000 Guardsmen, and its
15 ratio of one Guardsman for every 1,833 residents ranks 53rd
16 among the 54 states and territories of the United States which
17 have a National Guard component, and

18 WHEREAS, due to the unprecedented events of 2020 and 2021,
19 including the COVID-19 response, and in addition to natural
20 disasters and overseas deployments, the Florida National Guard
21 has expended the same number of workdays within the past 18
22 months as it expended over the past 20 years, and

23 WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard continues to meet its
24 mission goals; however, the shortage of these invaluable
25 "citizen soldiers," combined with the state's growing population
26 and increased need for National Guard activation and response,
27 has resulted in the repeated deployment of the same soldiers,
28 which ultimately leads to their excessive fatigue and negatively
29 impacts recruitment, retention, and readiness, and

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30 WHEREAS, the United States National Guard Bureau's report,
31 "Impact of U.S. Population Trends on National Guard Force
32 Structure," released to Congress in April 2021, acknowledges the
33 aforementioned concerns within Florida and other regions,
34 stating, "The National Guard may need to evaluate re-allocating
35 mission sets to other geographic areas to keep pace with
36 changing demographics across the country," NOW, THEREFORE,

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38 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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40 That the Florida Legislature respectfully urges the United
41 States Congress to impel the United States National Guard Bureau
42 to examine the resource allocations of the Florida National
43 Guard and allow an increase in its force structure.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
45 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
46 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
47 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
48 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.