

20231036er

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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 has a force  
14 structure of just over 12,000 Guardsmen, and its ratio of one  
15 Guardsman for every 1,833 residents ranks 53rd among the 54  
16 states and territories of the United States which have a  
17 National Guard component, and

18 WHEREAS, due to the unprecedented events of 2020 and 2021,  
19 including COVID-19 response in addition to natural disasters and  
20 overseas deployments, the Florida National Guard expended the  
21 same number of workdays within 18 months as it had expended  
22 within the previous 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 excessive stress and fatigue and  
29 negatively 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 of 2021, acknowledges  
33 the aforementioned concerns within Florida and other regions,  
34 stating, "...the National Guard may need to evaluate re-  
35 allocating mission sets to other geographic areas to keep pace  
36 with 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 the Secretary of State dispatch  
45 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
46 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
47 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the  
48 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.