

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

4022

2007 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SCR 4022

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **SCR 4022**

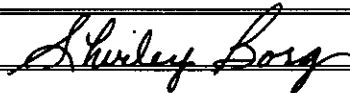
Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **February 22, 2007**

Recorder Job Number: **3704 and 3716 (Action)**

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Cook called the committee to order. All members (5) present.

Chairman Cook opened the hearing on SCR 4022, a concurrent resolution urging Congress and the President to pursue peace in Iraq and disengage American combat forces from Iraq duty.

Senator Mathern, District 11, Fargo, ND introduced SCR 4022. (See attachment #1)

Chairman Cook : When I look at this resolution two questions come to mind. First, do we play a role in sending a message to the commander in chief and congress? Second, if we do, what should this resolution say?

Senator Mathern: On that issue our state on a per capita basis has I believe either the top or close to the top number of persons serving in Iraq over and above any other state in the union, so our citizens and soldiers are represented there more that any other state.

Karen Van Fossan, appeared on behalf of 650 members and volunteers of the ND Peace Coalition in support of SCR 4022. (See attachment #2 A & B)

Paul Dwyer, testified in support of SCR 4022. (See attachment # 3)

Chuck Suchy, Morton County, Mandan, ND, testified in support of SCR 4022. (See attachment #4)

Chris Alexander, Pastor Faith Lutheran Church,, Bismarck ND testified in support of SCR 4022. (See attachment # 5)

Vinod Seth, ND physician testified in support of SCR 4022. (Attachment # 6)

Lewis Lubka, District 11 resident, testified in support of SCR 4022. (Attachment #7)

Dr. Herbert Wilson testified in support of SCR 4022 (Attachment # 8)

Rev. James Moos testified in support of SCR 4022 (Attachment #9)

Testimony opposed.

Dave Spryncznatyk, Adjutant General, State of North Dakota, testified in opposition of SCR 4022 as it is written because of the message that it sends to our troops, both those that have served in Iraq and have returned as well as those that are there today. The concern that I have is that we are a nation at war, I pray everyday for peace and for the safe return of all our soldiers and men and women in the military. The fact is that I think it is important that we recognize that our Commander in Chief has made a decision and that we do have troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and I think we need to send a message of support for those troops at the same time we ask for peace. As I have read through this resolution, the sense that I get is that many of our soldiers will read it and wonder about what it is that they have served for and what it is that they have done for our country and whether or not its been a waste. I have a concern for those families that we have to face who still have soldiers in Iraq today. I have put some thoughts into an amendment that you might consider. (Attachment # 10)

Chairman Cook when I looked at this and I seen the request for the urge for peace. Isn't that is what the men and women are fighting for, just that peace.

Dave: That is absolutely correct; none of us in the military would want anything but peace. You talk to soldiers and they will tell you we are there for the right reasons and that we are trying to restore peace to a country that has been at war for years.

Representative Wes Belter appeared in opposition of SCR 4022. The price of peace is always heavy. We all are interested in preserving peace. I am sure that is on the front burner of our president. It is wonderful to live in a country where we can debate openly and freely like we do and that freedom has only come about by great human cost. I think one thing that we need to take into consideration is that Iraq was ruled by terrene, rape, death and torture. That is how Saddam Hussein kept his power. If the US and the free world are to leave Iraq, we also need to bare the consequences and be responsible for all that will happen. We removing ourselves from Iraq will not bring peace. I think we need to send a resolution to support our troops.

John Jacobsen, Colonel AUS testified in opposition to SCR 4022. (See attachment #11)

Jake Gotta, testified in opposition. (See attachment #12)

Hal Neff, testified in opposition to SCR 4022 (See attachment # 13)

Robert Dilly, Retired Air Force Member, testified in opposition of SCR 4022. We need to stand together as a nation. There are people in Iraq who are benefiting from our presence there. No military person wants war but we need to let them do their job and let State Government stay out of there.

Fred Jordon testified in opposition of SCR 4022.

Testimony in Support of SCR 4022.

Don Morrison, Executive Director of ND People Org., testified in support. (See attachment # 14)

Helen Ruby testified in support of SCR 4022

Cameron White testified in support. (Attachment # 15)

Janet Kelly Moen in support (Attachment #16)

Testimony passed out (attachment #17)

No further testimony in support, opposed or neutral.

Chairman Cook closed the hearing on SCR 4022.

February 22, 2007 Recorder # 3716 (action)

Chairman Cook asked the committee to discuss SCR 4022. He shared with the committee his thoughts, He asked two questions; the first question in his mind was is this the appropriate place to have this discussion and is it appropriate for this legislature to be communicating in any form regarding a policy such as this. The second question is if we do what does it say? It is my belief that this is not a place for this discussion to take place. If it is not the committees desire to give it a Do Not Pass then I think we need to change what it says so it is less offensive.

Senator Warner: I won't be here Friday. I had Chris integrate the Sprynczynatyk amendments. It doesn't say much of anything so thought it might be appropriate to supplement the language.

Senator Anderson; I jotted down a couple of things. There is no question about it you want to show your support and in my case I want to say that the citizens of North Dakota are concerned about getting our troops back. I wrote down another Whereas. Whereas a successful conclusion of their efforts is desired in order to bring our troops back with honor and appreciation of our citizens. It doesn't say much.

Senator Olafson: I ask whether this is an issue that the legislature of North Dakota should be engaging in an effort to influence foreign policy. In my opinion we ought not to do that. If we are going to do that I don't like the language as purposed. The amendments make it far more palatable to me.

Chairman Cook: Senator Anderson and Senator Warner, do you think it is important to send a message on this issue?

Senator Warner: I would like to send a message of support to the troops.

Senator Anderson: That is what I am trying to say, that we desire a successful conclusion but doesn't say bring them away.

Senator Anderson moved the amendment.

Senator Warner seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Voice Vote: All 5 members in favor.

Senator Hacker proposed a second amendment removing President of the United States.

Senator Warner seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All members in favor.

Discussion:

Senator Olafson: A Do Not Pass on the original bill in the current language of the bill seems to send the wrong message to our troops.

Senator Warner moved a Do Pass as Amended version of SCR 4022

Senator Anderson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All members (5) in favor.

Carrier: **Senator Hacker**

Date: 2-22-07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4022

Senate	Political Subdivisions	Committee
--------	------------------------	-----------

☐ Check here for Conference Committee**Legislative Council Amendment Number**

Action Taken Do Pass Amendments

Motion Made By Senator Anderson Seconded By Senator Warner

[illegible]

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-22-07
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. _____

Senate	Political Subdivisions	Committee
--------	------------------------	-----------

☐ Check here for Conference Committee**Legislative Council Amendment Number**

Action Taken 2nd Amendment

Motion Made By Sen Hacker Seconded By Sen. Warner

[illegible]

Total Yes 5 No 1

Absent _____

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Roll Call Vote #: 3

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. _____

Senate	Political Subdivisions	Committee
--------	------------------------	-----------

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 73084.0401 Title .0500

Action Taken Do Pass 25 Amendment

Motion Made By Senator Warner Seconded By Senator Anderson

[illegible]

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent 6

Floor Assignment Senator Hacker

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4022: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Cook, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4022 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "to" insert "continue to"

Page 1, line 2, replace "disengage American combat forces from Iraq duty" with "Afghanistan"

Page 1, line 3, after the first "Iraq" insert "and Afghanistan" and remove "in the midst of an Iraq civil"

Page 1, line 4, remove "and sectarian war"

Page 1, replace lines 5 and 6 with:

"WHEREAS, a successful conclusion of their efforts is desired to bring our troops back with honor and the appreciation of our citizens;"

Page 1, after line 8, insert:

"That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly supports our brave men and women of the armed forces and their sacrifice and commitment to duty; and"

Page 1, line 9, replace "That" with **"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that" and after "to" insert "continue to"

Page 1, line 10, replace "disengage American combat forces from Iraq duty" with "Afghanistan"

Page 1, line 12, remove "the President of the United States and to"

Renumber accordingly

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4022

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4022

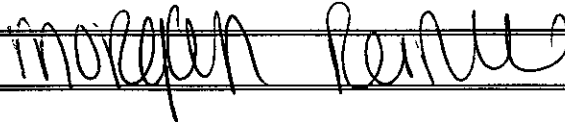
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 22, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5438

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Sen. Mathern: Testimony attached.

Rep. Kretschmar: *I was happy to cosponsor this bill. I certainly am not an expert on the complex problems that the United States government is in. I certainly support the idea that we should be using all of our resources to try to resolve the problems over there. It does appear that we aren't solving these problems. I believe, and I think our national government is taking steps towards the diplomatic area to work for peace and changes. One other point I would like to make is that this resolution, I believe, is based on one of our great rights that we citizens of this country have in the federal bill of rights. We are able to petition our government in times of need. I think the citizens of our state are here petitioning our government to bring our troops home. I would hope that your committee would give this resolution a do pass after your consideration.*

Rep. Kasper: Is there anything that you can see that would stop any citizen of North Dakota or citizens of the United States from petitioning the government on their own with a letter, email, or any other source that they would like to petition?

Rep. Kretschmar: We certainly all have the right to do that. We certainly can do that. I think it is

important for our legislative assembly to do that also. Individuals and groups certainly have that right.

Rep. Zaiser: *I come here to support a do pass motion of this resolution. First of all I would like to applaud Sen. Mathern in bringing this forward in light of some controversy of doing that. I think it was a better resolution before it got watered down in the Senate. At least the guts are here. I think it's also a good resolution. I'd like to first of all answer Rep. Kasper's question about petitioning the government as individuals. I have done that. I have written a letter to the government and I didn't get a response. I don't know if it does any good. I think the weight of a state resolution would have more significance than a weight of an individual, just because it represents more people. We are all representatives of the people. We represent districts.*

Firstly I would like to talk about where we are in the war in Iraq. It seems to me that we are just sort of floating. I don't know what's happening. I don't know if there is a clear mission for where we ought to be going or what we ought to be doing. If there isn't a clear mission of where we are going and what we are ought to be doing, then I feel that clearly we aren't making a whole lot of accomplishments after four years. I think we ought to be putting our efforts into saving lives. We have lost 3,200. Some 25,000 are without arms and so forth, it is gruesome. The cost has been billions and billions of dollars. It seems to me that we don't know what winning is there. Until we know that, I don't know what to do. The status quo is to stay as is. I think really the only alternative is what the future of these ladies and gentlemen is, and their lives. We hear about moral problems there. There are a number of people that come back with PTSD. Can you imagine everyday not knowing when you are going to rest, when there is going to be a bomb? I really would urge this committee to give this resolution a do pass. I think it's about our youngest and best who have committed our lives to this country. This is important. I think we have to recognize as a country when we aren't proceeding. It's better to switch course than to

say we are going to stay on the same course regardless of results. I think this is where we need to look at where we are going. The budget deficit in this country is huge and it keeps on growing under a very conservative president.

Rep. Amerman: I don't know if you have seen the amendments, but would you support the bill as amended?

Rep. Zaiser: I didn't see the amendments.

Rep. Amerman: It has been brought up by Rep. Kasper, that even without this resolution the citizens have the right to petition their government. Certainly they do. In reality that is what you are doing today. It is open forum and everybody can come.

Rep. Zaiser: Yes. Even though we aren't the federal government, the key is hopefully their voices can get heard by this resolution being passed and forwarded on to federal government. This resolution does not get passed and this resolution does not get heard.

Rep. Kasper: You made some comments in your testimony about that there really are no plan and we aren't getting results. What basis do you use to come to the conclusion? Is it the media that you watch on television, have you been to Iraq? How do you get to that conclusion?

Rep. Zaiser: Well I get to that conclusion by the way a lot of people get to that conclusion. I would guess there are only a few people in this room that have been to Iraq. I get it by reading, I get it by listening to broadcast media. What I have been able to ascertain by that media is that we have changed our mission several times. The first time it was to get weapons of mass destruction. Well we didn't find any so that changed. Then it was to overthrow Saddam, well he's dead. I don't know what the mission is now. Democracy sometimes doesn't make things better.

Rep. Kasper: Well let me share with you how I get my information. I have a nephew from Bismarck who is in Iraq right now. He and I email each other. From the emails I have received

from him, who is there, he tells me that we are making tremendous progress. He also tells me that what the public and the United States is seeing on television, is not at all like what is going on in Iraq. He is frustrated from the fact that the truth is not being reported from his perspective and he is there risking his life. What we get from the media is not the facts of Iraq. That is how I get my opinions.

Rep. Zaiser: I want to congratulate your nephew for serving. I think he is doing his duty as an American. On the other hand I have heard second hand from military people that have said the exact opposite. The fact that you have a nephew doesn't make that one better than somebody that I know.

Karen Van Fossan: Testimony attached.

Cameron White: Testimony attached.

Rep. Amerman: Thank you for your service and testimony. Are you still in the inactive ready reserve?

Cameron White: Yes.

Rep. Amerman: If this prolongs with the rotations and stuff, could you still be called up?

Cameron White: Yes, I have one more year left.

Colonel Thiele: *I'm here on behalf of Major General Dave Spryncynatyk. It's interesting why he can't be here because as we speak his plane is about to touch down at Fort Lewis, bringing back the ADA. We are thrilled to have them home. I'm going to talk about engrossed SCR 4022. What we have before you is a strong statement of support for our service members. We have proposed some amendments in the Senate that make clear that message. And that is what we support at this time. It's interesting, this process that we are going through today is a turning example of Democracy and that is why we wear our uniform. There are very diverse opinions on what is going on. That is ok. That is part of the process. Let's remember that in*

most countries around the world you don't have that right to stand before a group like this and express such strong views. I think that is something that we all need to very clearly understand. That is an important part of what we are doing, promoting democracy around the world. It is ok to disagree. We need to focus on that to ensure no matter what our opinions and views are, we continue to support our service members and their families. I think everybody in this room agrees with that.

Rep. Haas: I think your remarks are particularly pertinent and appropriate.

Chuck Suchy: Testimony attached.

Sister Yvonne Nelson: Testimony attached.

Chris Alexander: Testimony attached.

Rep. Amerman: You ask for a do pass, is that as it is or as amended?

Chris Alexander: I would prefer that we work to try and bring our troops home. To bring that back into the resolution would be greatly appreciated by everyone that is fighting for peace.

Cheryl Bergian: *I stand in support of this resolution with the amendments. The resolution is going to bring peace and justice. I ask that everyone that is in this room that is able to stand. We are going to have people who cannot testify. Please stand, show your support, stand. Show how many people are here today in support of this resolution.*

Sen. Potter: I stand in support of the resolution and express that not just for myself but for my family. My 88 year old mother, my 16 year old son had tears in his eyes watching the bombs fall on Baghdad. He said "Dad those are our bombs, that is a city". I might call your attention to one part of this resolution that is in front of you. This is something I mentioned on the Senate floor. It says 'whereas a successful conclusion of their efforts is desired to bring our troops back with honor and appreciation of our citizens'. This has to change. A successful conclusion is not necessary to bring our troops home. Hardly anyone believes there will be a successful

conclusion. We will welcome our troops back with honor. This should be separated. I Support the amendments. If they fail, I would encourage you to make this minor change. Words are our business. That is what we are all about. Words are what count. These are words that say come back with honor if we win, but if you loose come back in the dead of night. We don't want to say that to our people.

Kaycee Huus: Testimony attached.

Don Morrison: Testimony attached.

Rep. Boehning: When you are talking about cuts for the level of funding, is that an actual cut in funding or a cut in the budget? I would like to see some numbers and I don't see numbers.

Don Morrison: If you look at the middle of the second page, the president has asked for nearly \$100 billion of additional war spending. It would cut to \$13 billion in non security spending. That is what would be in the budget if the spending is being cut.

Rep. Boehning: I just would like some numbers to see what the funding level was in the last budget. We are talking about cuts but a lot of them are just reductions. It is a cut or a reduction?

Don Morrison: What this represents is that most often what happens is that it is a cut in itself.

Rep. Kasper: I'm interested in your quote of Ben Franklin on the first page. Do you know what essential liberty he was talking about when he made that statement?

Don Morrison: It has to do with when people put themselves on the line. When their government wants to restrict what you can and can't do. It is up to the people under the democracy to stand up and speak.

Rep. Kasper: If you could provide the entire quote.

Don Morrison: It really does have to do with what we are talking about today.

Iruna Sate: *I'm standing before you as a mother of two. I am a citizen of North Dakota and proud to be in the Peace Garden State. All of you are sitting here trying to get convinced to vote for SCR 4022. I can just share what is so different about my testimony from the others. I was ten years old and part of my country in India. I have seen three wars. I can see that we have been very fortunate in the United States because we have not seen any war in this country. I still remember what I saw as a student. The bombs were being dropped, there were blackouts, and there were fires and much worse. I can't image what people are experiencing in Iraq. I don't think any mother wants her children to experience that. My husband is a physician. He sees a lot of veterans. As we speak he is taking care of the veterans. I am asking please to pass this. I told my children that I am going to come convince my elected officials to vote for this bipartisan resolution. We need to bring our troops home. I hope that you put your wisdom and your elected powers to this.*

Rep. Froseth: Do you think the people of Iraq would be better off today with Saddam than they would be in the future under a democratic government?

Iruna Sate: I have not lived there and I cannot answer that. I have friends who are living in Bismarck that are from Iraq. They are saying that they want their country back. Nobody wants to live under occupation.

Rep. Froseth: Do you think it is possible for them to get their country back if there is no democracy?

Iruna Sate: I think we should let them decide what kind of democracy they want. They were living it before. I think they are educated enough to know what they want. They are physicians, engineers, and politicians.

Rep. Froseth: If the American's leave Iraq do you think everything will end?

Iruna Sate: I don't know. We just need to understand conflict and do it in a non violent way.

Rep. Weiler: You came from India and have seen three wars?

Iruna Sate: Yes.

Rep. Weiler: Why did you come to the United States?

Iruna Sate: My husband was already here, and I joined him.

Rep. Weiler: Why did your husband come?

Iruna Sate: He came for further education. He was a physician and wanted more education.

Rep. Grande: I know you have mentioned that some of the Iraqi's are confused if they have better freedoms now. My constituents are very thankful for all the freedom we have now given them. I think that maybe there is a difference in opinion.

Iruna Sate: They came to the United States as refugees. They are going back to Iraq to do the things they have to do. They are working there. They are citizens of the United States. They are trying to understand their country. They just want their country back.

Rep. Grande: But because we went there they now have the ability to go back and live. My concerns are with the statements made. There was no freedom but now they have the ability to go back because of what our troops have done. I have confusion and when we talk about what Iraq was like four years ago, women had no freedom and no ability to be educated. So to say that they are not better off I found that sad that women can finally be educated.

Iruna Sate: So you are saying that women did not have an opportunity to be educated? The women I am talking to are very well educated. They lived in Iraq. The family I am talking about, her father was an ambassador. He was assassinated. These are educated families.

Rep. Grande: Only certain classes and people were given any opportunity. These young girls are finally seeing something outside of their home.

Iruna Sate: I disagree with you.

Rep. Amerman: *I was looking at the resolutions and what brought to mind was what Sen. Potter brought up on line 5. A successful conclusion is needed to bring our troops back with honor. As you know and most of you know, I have served in Vietnam. We did not have a successful conclusion in Vietnam. I would like to think that all who served came back with honor. I want to serve that we as a committee need to work to change that wording.*

Dr. Herbert Wilson: Testimony attached.

Rep. Haas: Is there any opposition testimony for SCR 4022? If not we will close the hearing on SCR 4022.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4022

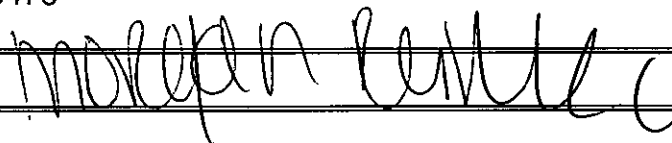
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 22, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5473

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Rep. Grande: I move a do pass.

Rep. Weiler: I Second that.

Rep. Haas: Is there any discussion?

Rep. Wolf: There were some amendments that were proposed.

Rep. Amerman: Is it proper to move the amendments now even though there is a motion?

Rep. Haas: Certainly. It is appropriate at any time to move the amendments. You either pass or fail the amendment and then vote on the bill.

Rep. Wolf: I move the amendment proposed by Sen. Mathern.

Rep. Amerman: I second that.

Rep. Haas: Is there any discussion? We are going to take a little bit of time to take a look at the amendment and compare it to the bill.

Rep. Weiler: I'm going to resist the motion to these amendments based on the wording on line 5 that says the troops in Iraq have reached a successful conclusion. I don't believe that we have succeeded yet. And that they be redeployed and brought back home. I think it's a good resolution the way it currently is. I would have to disagree with some of the language in these amendments.

Rep. Froseth: Colonel Thiele made the statement that the resolution as it was presented, is a strong statement of support for the military. I think if we accept this amendment it doesn't sound like a very strong statement. It sounds like a statement that we shouldn't be there and that is the message we are sending. Also in Sen. Mathern's testimony, it says the American people favor the return of our troops. The legislation we do hear should be representative of ND. I didn't see anywhere in his testimony that he had any conclusive evidence that the people in ND, the majority favor the coming home of our troops. I think if we accept this we are saying that ND agrees with the rest of the nation. I don't know if that is the truth.

Rep. Schneider: I have a proposed amendment. I don't know if it's a modification or what. I think a successful conclusion is a vague term in times of war. How do you define success in times of war. What I would like to see is in the second whereas you could put a successful conclusion perhaps at the conclusion of their efforts it is desired to bring our.. Citizens. I don't like the word successful.

Rep. Haas: Is there further discussion?

Rep. Kasper: If you read as Rep. Weiler did on line 5, the amendment would state whereas the troops in Iraq have reached a successful conclusion of their efforts. That is making a conclusion that the state of ND has decided that the president and the policy of the congress, is wrong. The president has said repeatedly that we are not done in Iraq. That is why he has taken the steps that he has taken in the last number of weeks. For we as a legislator to assume that we know more about what is going on in Iraq than the defense department, the military, the president, is way beyond the scope of this legislative body. For that reason alone I cannot support the amendments.

Rep. Boehning: I guess I'm going to resist the motion too. If we take Afghanistan out, why don't we have a resolution to pull all troops out. If we pull them out of Iraq we might as well pull them

out of Afghanistan as well.

Rep. Amerman: I think where it says whereas the troops in Iraq have reached a successful conclusion. As Sen. Mathern's amendments state, it is appropriate. I believe the troops in Iraq have had a successful conclusion. They have done what they were sent there to do. They have overthrown the government. They have protected. What has not been successful is on the political side. The troops have been successful. They have done all that has been asked. I believe that is what this resolution says. On comments to Rep. Boehning's remarks about Afghanistan, the thing is that is where Bin Laden and Al Quida are hiding. They are the ones we are going after. This deals with Iraq. I believe the amendments are proper.

Rep. Haas: Is there further discussion? If not we will try a voice vote on the amendment. All in favor say 'aye' opposed say 'no'. The amendment fails.

Rep. Schneider: I would like to propose an amendment. On line 5 after the whereas, strike a successful and insert 'at the' and then insert an 'it' between the 'efforts' and 'is'. It would read whereas, at the conclusion of their efforts it is desired to bring our troops back with honor and the appreciation of our citizens.

Rep. Wolf: I second that.

Rep. Haas: Is there discussion?

Rep. Kasper: Would that be the only amendment that we are proposing? Are all the rest the original resolution?

Rep. Schneider: Yes.

Rep. Haas: Is there further discussion?

Rep. Kasper: I'm much more comfortable with that wording than the other amendment. The word successful is subjective. This way with the amendment, at the conclusion of their efforts, which would mean the President or the Congress would decide when it is time to conclude.

Rep. Potter: I have one more word. Whereas, at the conclusion of their efforts, it is desired to have our troops back home with honor, support, and appreciation of the citizens. I'm not sure if I heard support.

Rep. Grande: Rep. Amerman can suggest making that change.

Rep. Amerman: Sen. Potter got up and spoke and I was looking at this too. The reason I have a problem is because of the word successful. In the way he saw it and the way I kind of look at it, if it wasn't successful, they don't bring them back home with honor. We were not successful in Vietnam. Maybe I am reading more into it but this is kind of how I read into it.

Rep. Haas: We will take a voice vote on the amendment. All in favor say 'aye' all opposed say 'no'. The amendment is carried.

Rep. Wolf: I would like to offer one further amendment. On line 14 where at the very end it says each member of the ND Congressional Delegation. I would like to add the word after 'Delegation' I would like to add the words 'and the President'.

Rep. Schneider: I second that.

Rep. Haas: Is there discussion?

Rep. Wolf: The reason I would like to see that added to the bill is to let him know our feelings. Our Congressional Delegation does know, and this way it will let him know that we support his efforts and we would like to let them know our feelings.

Rep. Haas: Any further discussion? All in favor say 'aye' opposed say 'no'. The amendment is carried.

Rep. Weiler: I move a do pass as amended.

Rep. Dahl: I second that.

Rep. Haas: Is there any more discussion? If not we will take a roll call vote on a do pass as amended vote on SCR 4022. The do pass as amended motion passes with a vote of 13-0-0. Is

there a volunteer to carry this?

Rep. Weiler: I will.

Date: _____

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number SCR 4022

Action Taken move amendment

Motion Made By Rep. Wolf Seconded By Rep.

Representatives		Yes	No	Representatives		Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman				Rep. Bill Amerman			
Rep. Bette Grande VC				Rep. Louise Potter			
Rep. Randy Boehning				Rep. Jasper Schneider			
Rep. Stacey Dahl				Rep. Lisa Wolf			
Rep. Glen Froseth							
Rep. Karen Karls							
Rep. Jim Kasper							
Rep. Lisa Meier							
Rep. Dave Weller							
Total	(Yes)						

Total (Yes) _____ No _____
Absent _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Filed

Date: 3-22-07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number SCR 4022

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep. Grance Seconded By Rep. Weiler

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman			Rep. Bill Amerman		
Rep. Bette Grande VC			Rep. Louise Potter		
Rep. Randy Boehning			Rep. Jasper Schneider		
Rep. Stacey Dahl			Rep. Lisa Wolf		
Rep. Glen Froseth					
Rep. Karen Karls					
Rep. Jim Kasper					
Rep. Lisa Meier					
Rep. Dave Weiler					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 5-66
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number SCR 4022

Action Taken move amendment

Motion Made By Rep Wolf Seconded By Rep Schneider

Representatives			Yes	No	Representatives			Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman					Rep. Bill Amerman				
Rep. Bette Grande VC					Rep. Louise Potter				
Rep. Randy Boehning					Rep. Jasper Schneider				
Rep. Stacey Dahl					Rep. Lisa Wolf				
Rep. Glen Froseth									
Rep. Karen Karls									
Rep. Jim Kasper									
Rep. Lisa Meier									
Rep. Dave Weller									

Total (Yes) _____ No _____
Absent _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Roll Call Vote #: /

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Res. No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number SCB SCE 4072

Action Taken move amendment

Motion Made By Rep. Schneider Seconded By Rep. Wolf

Representatives		Yes	No	Representatives		Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman				Rep. Bill Amerman			
Rep. Bette Grande VC				Rep. Louise Potter			
Rep. Randy Boehning				Rep. Jasper Schneider			
Rep. Stacey Dahl				Rep. Lisa Wolf			
Rep. Glen Froseth							
Rep. Karen Karls							
Rep. Jim Kasper							
Rep. Lisa Meier							
Rep. Dave Weiler							
Total	(Yes)						

Total (Yes) _____ No _____
Absent _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 5-6-6
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Motion Made By

Seconded By

Representatives			Yes	No	Representatives			Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas	Chairman		X		Rep. Bill Amerman		X		
Rep. Bette Grande	VC		X		Rep. Louise Potter		X		
Rep. Randy Boehning			X		Rep. Jasper Schneider		X		
Rep. Stacey Dahl			X		Rep. Lisa Wolf		X		
Rep. Glen Froseth			X						
Rep. Karen Karls			X						
Rep. Jim Kasper			X						
Rep. Lisa Meier			X						
Rep. Dave Weiler			X						

Total (Yes)

No

Absent

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4022, as engrossed: **Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SCR 4022 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 5, replace "a successful" with "at the" and after "efforts" insert ", it"

Page 1, line 14, after "Delegation" insert "and to the President of the United States"

Renumber accordingly

2007 TESTIMONY

SCR 4022

SCR 4022
Political Subdivisions Committee
February 22, 2007

Chairman Cook and Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Tim Mathern. I am the Senator from District 11 in Fargo and introduced SCR 4022.

This resolution recognizes American soldiers in Iraq as serving bravely which merits the respect and support of all people. This resolution also urges Congress and the President to pursue peace in Iraq and disengage American combat forces from Iraq.

Many concerned and insightful people are here to testify to support the following points;

- 1) The American people favor return of the troops.
- 2) The best way to support the troops at this time is to bring them home.
- 3) Military experts advise redeployment from Iraq.
- 4) Continuation or escalation of the Iraq war would hurt states and taxpayers.
- 5) Continuation or escalation of the Iraq war would harm civilians, including children.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, while the war on terror may be ongoing, the focus of this resolution is our soldiers and the war in Iraq. Some say we are in Iraq to support democracy. By introducing this resolution and discussing the war, we are exercising democracy and I trust those here today recognize this high calling.

I look forward to the testimony of other citizens. This resolution calls for a responsible transition process from Iraq and I ask for your Do Pass recommendation on SCR 4022. Thank you.



NORTH DAKOTA PEACE COALITION

P.O. Box 2547 • Bismarck, ND 58502-2547

Serving Peace and Justice since 1983

Chair Cook and Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee:

My name is Karen Van Fossan, and I stand before you today on behalf of the more than 650 members and volunteers of the North Dakota Peace Coalition. I am here to present signatures of more than 600 North Dakotans who call for an end to the Iraq war. These signatures have been gathered through in-person and on-line petition drives, and signatures keep coming in statewide. I firmly believe that the people of North Dakota are ready to bring our troops home.

As American people, perhaps we all concern ourselves with honor. We are asked, "Does this resolution honor our country? Does this resolution honor victory? Does this resolution honor the troops?" Our answer to all these questions: Absolutely yes.

Honoring our country: By design, in a democratic country, the people are to have a voice. That is the nature of elections, public forums, legislation, and this very hearing today. It is precisely what our government is there to do. We in North Dakota are among 25 states that are bringing forward actions of this kind. In a democracy, we as North Dakotans have a right – and more than that, a responsibility – to participate in the national debate. This is how we give honor to our democratic country.

Honoring victory: To quote Rev. Chris Alexander, "There is no greater victory than doing the right thing at the right time." In the beginning, many Iraqi people welcomed US troops with open arms. Since that time, 8 out of 10 Iraqi people say it is time for the US to go. We are told that our mission in Iraq was to extend democracy. If we truly value democracy in Iraq, we must heed the voices of the people of Iraq. That is the nature of democracy – self-determination, freedom, liberty. That is the mission our troops enlisted to serve.

Honoring our troops: Many, many of us in the North Dakota Peace Coalition are veterans. Some are on active duty. All hold the troops in high esteem. The troops are our neighbors, our loved ones, our children, and oftentimes ourselves. I try to understand, but it's difficult for me to understand, the claim we hear sometimes that we don't support the troops. This is so far from my experience, so far from the experience of anybody I know who advocates for peace. The US troops in Iraq – 7 out of 10 – say it's time for the war to end. We honor their mission, their courage, their sacrifice, and also their recommendation, that it's truly time to come home.

As Sen. Mathern has testified, there are five reasons to support SCR 4022. Mr. Chuck Suchy, Dr. Janet Moen, and Ms. KayCee Huus will address Reason 1. Mr. Paul Dyer, Mr. Cameron White, Dr. Vinod Seth, and Dr. Herb Wilson will address Reason 2. Dr. Lew Lubka will address Reason 3. Mr. Don Morrison will address Reason 4. Sr. Maris Stella Korb, Rev. Jim Moos, and Rev. Chris Alexander will address Reason 5.

Following the hearing, we invite everyone of us gathered here, whatever view we hold, to join together for a brief Circle of Peace in the Atrium by the "In Their Shoes" exhibit. The Circle of Peace will be a time to meditate, pray, sing, and hope for peace. I trust that we all long for peace, one way or another. I respectfully urge you to give a "Do Pass" recommendation to SCR 4022. I would be honored to respond to any questions.

"Ways of Peace: Food, Land, and Native Peoples' Rights"

Tuesday, November 28, 2006
7 p.m.

United Tribes Technical College
Jack Barden Center
3315 University Dr, Bismarck

Cosponsors:
United Tribes Technical College,
Missouri Valley Resource Council, and
Teddy Roosevelt Chapter of the Sierra Club



WINONA LADUKE

A two-time U.S. Vice Presidential Candidate, author of five books, and recipient of numerous awards, Winona LaDuke lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota. LaDuke is a mother of five and graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities. She serves as program director of Honor the Earth (a Native American foundation focused on environmental issues and energy policy) and as founding director of White Earth Land Recovery Project (the largest reservation-based non-profit organization in Minnesota). LaDuke and the White Earth Land Recovery Project recently received the prestigious International Slow Food Award for their work with protecting wild rice and local biodiversity.



Cheryl Long Feather

Cheryl Long Feather (Hunkuatwin) is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She received her B.S. in Communications from the University of Mary, as well as a Master's degrees in Management and Business Administration. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Communication & Public Discourse at UND. Long Feather serves as the Research Director for United Tribes Technical College. She has worked in and with Tribal communities and populations for the majority of her career. She also advocates for Native people and Tribes in a variety of volunteer efforts in education, human services, civil rights, women's issues, diversity, youth issues, and health.

Peace Studies Planning Group

Julie Huwe
Corinne Lee
Tessa Sicble
Renee Stromme
Bonnie Torrance
Karen Van Fossan (Director)

What is the Purpose of "Peace Studies-West"?

The ND Peace Coalition believes peace is a fundamental human right. Here in the Peace Garden State, we strive to create a "culture of peace."

According to the United Nations, "Peace is a way of being, doing, and living in society that can be taught, developed, and...improved upon....The culture of peace is peace in action."

Established during the nuclear freeze movement, the ND Peace Coalition has been an active proponent of peacemaking since 1983. We are a multicultural, nonpartisan collective of 650 individuals across North Dakota who are committed to working for peace, human dignity, economic and social justice, and a responsible relationship with the environment—locally, nationally, and globally.

All Programs are Free and
Open to the Public.

Travel scholarships are available for those
coming from out of town.

For more information, please contact
Karen Van Fossan at 701-258-6667 or
kivanfossan@yahoo.com.

Made possible through a grant from the
Otto Bremer Foundation. Thank you!

Peace is...



possible.

"Peace Studies-West"

Speakers' Series

Bismarck, North Dakota

November, 2006 — April, 2007



North Dakota Peace Coalition

ND Peace Coalition
P.O. Box 2547
Bismarck, ND 58502-2547

"Peace in the Heart:
The Generosity of Forgiveness"

Friday, January 12, 2007
7 p.m.
Trinity Community Center
3rd St & Ave A, Bismarck

Cosponsor:
Pinwheel Creative Movement Center



Kimberly Kingsley

Kimberly Kingsley is an Energy Coach and Licensed Counselor based in Scottsdale, Arizona. In addition to working with clients, she is a writer, speaker, and teacher of communications and counseling classes at Scottsdale Community College.

Kingsley has a Master's degree in Counseling from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Psychology from Arizona State University. Her first book, *Opening to Life: Reconnecting with Your Internal Source of Energy, Wisdom and Joy* received both Editor's Choice and Reader's Choice Awards and is available on Amazon.com.

Her second publication is a paper entitled, *Quality Now! Introducing Relational Based Quality*. The subject of the paper is organizational integrity. A variation of the full paper was recently published in *Quality Progress Magazine*. Kimberly's next book, *Plug in and Charge: Energizing Tips for a Demanding Lifestyle* is expected to be released in 2007.

"Non-Violent Conflict Management:
International Paths to Peace"

Friday, February 9, 2007
7 p.m.
Bismarck State College
1500 Edwards Ave, Prairie Room, Student Union

Cosponsors:
Gandhi Peace Network and
UND Peace Studies Department



Kathy Kelly

Kathy Kelly, three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, helped initiate Voices in the Wilderness, a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. For bringing medicine and toys to Iraq, she and other campaign members were threatened with 12 years in prison, and eventually fined \$20,000, which they've refused to pay. Voices in the Wilderness organized 70 delegations to Iraq in the period between 1996 and the beginning of the "Operation Shock and Awe" warfare (March 2003). Kelly has been to Iraq 24 times since 1996. In 2004, she served three months at Pekin Federal Prison for "crossing the line" in an effort to close the army military combat training school at Fort Benning, GA. She is active with the Catholic Worker movement and has refused payment of all Federal income tax for 25 years. Her book *Other Lands Have Dreams: from Baghdad to Pekin Prison* (2005) is available through Counterpunch (www.counterpunch.org).

"Equal Rights Amendment in ND:
Equality and Peace"

Friday, March 9, 2007
7 p.m.
Trinity Community Center
3rd St & Ave A, Bismarck

Cosponsors:
North Dakota Women's Network,
League of Women Voters, and
American Association of University Women

"Join with us to celebrate the bipartisan ratification of the ERA in ND in 1975, and empower a new generation to work for women's rights. The ERA could well be added to the US Constitution." — Renee Stromme, ND Women's Network



Wayne Stenehjem

Wayne Stenehjem, ND Attorney General, has supported the ERA since the mid-1970s as a legislator.



Kristin Hedger

Kristin Hedger, an up-and-coming voice, calls on young women to engage in decision-making.

Brian Palecek



Brian Palecek lobbied for the ERA and served on the Commission on the Status of Women.



Donna Chalmorczyk

Donna Chalmorczyk directed the committee that led to ratification of the ERA in ND.



Katherine Satrom

Katherine Satrom's efforts for women's rights led her to the Carter White House in the 1970s.



Lois Altenberg

A champion of women's rights, Lois Altenberg now serves as state president for the League of Women Voters.

"Corporate Conscience:
Economics 101"

Friday, April 13, 2007
7 p.m.
Trinity Community Center
3rd St & Ave A, Bismarck

Cosponsors:
Stones Throw IT (www.stonesthrowtech.com),
Smoothie Operator Juice Bar,
Seeds of Hope Thrift & Gift Shop,
Mikochi Recording Studio, and
ND Center for the Common Good



Howard Dahl

Named "North Dakota Innovator of the Year" in 1997, and "North Dakota Agricultural Person of the Year" in 2004, Howard Dahl was born and raised in Gwinner, ND. Currently, Dahl is CEO of Anity Technology, a manufacturer of farm machinery, and owner of Wil-Rich, a manufacturer of tillage equipment. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration and an M.A. in Philosophy and Religion. As a business leader who sells his products globally, he will speak on corporate ethical responsibility regarding community interest, private gain, corporate conduct, and CEO salaries. He will also focus on the IMF-World Bank, outsourcing, and employee retirement benefits and insurance.

Don Morrison



Don Morrison is the executive director of the North Dakota Center for the Public Good (NDCPG). The center is a statewide advocacy group working on social and economic justice issues that improve the daily lives of people. A long time progressive leader on social and economic justice issues, Don Morrison has over 30 years as an activist and 20 years in a North Dakota leadership role. Recipient of the 1992 Prairie Peacemaker Award, he is a founder of the NDCPG and its sister organization, NDPeople.Org formerly known as the North Dakota Progressive Coalition. Don was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia, a teacher, budget analyst with the ND Office of Management and Budget, and research analyst and assistant to the State Tax Commissioner. Morrison led his church congregation in becoming a "Welcoming Congregation" and starting the community interfaith Dismantling Racism. The latter effort received the 2001 Bennett Award of Human Justice.

Small towns bear the scars from Iraq Bismarck Tribune

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
Associated Press Writer

MCKEESPORT, Pa. — Edward "Willie" Carman wanted a ticket out of town, and the Army provided it.

Raised in the projects by a single mother in this blighted, old industrial steel town outside Pittsburgh, the 18-year-old saw the U.S. military as an opportunity.

"I'm not doing it to you, I'm doing it for me," he told his mother, Joanna Hawthorne, after coming home from high school one day and surprising her with the news.

When Carman died in Iraq three years ago at age 27, he had money saved for college, a fiancée and two kids — including a baby son he'd never met. Neighbors in Hawthorne's mobile home park collected \$400 and left it in an envelope in her door.

For a year after his death, Hawthorne took a chair to the cemetery nearly every day, sat next to his grave and talked quietly. Her vigil continues even now; the visits have slowed to once a week, but the pain sticks.

Across the nation, small towns are quietly bearing a disproportionate burden of war. Nearly half of the more than 3,100 U.S. military fatalities in Iraq have come from towns like McKeesport, where fewer than 25,000 people live, according to an analysis by the Associated Press. One in five hailed from hometowns of fewer than 5,000.

Many of the hometowns of the war dead aren't just small, they're poor. The AP analysis found that nearly three quarters of those killed in Iraq came from towns where the per capi-



Joanna Hawthorne, mother of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Edward Carman, sits in a folding chair she brought to the graveside of her son in McKeesport, Pa., on Feb. 9.

ta income was below the national average. More than half came from towns where the percentage of people living in poverty topped the national average.

Some are old factory towns like McKeesport, once home to U.S. Steel's National Tube Works, which employed 8,000 people in its heyday. Now, residents' average income is just 60 percent of the national average, and one in eight lives below the federal poverty line.

On a per capita basis, states with mostly rural populations have suffered the highest casualties in Iraq. Vermont, South Dakota, Alaska, North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Delaware, Montana, Louisiana and Oregon top the list, the AP found.

There's a "basic unfairness" about the number of troops dying in Iraq who are from rural areas, said William O'Hare, senior visiting fellow at the

"I'm not doing it to you, I'm doing it for me."

U.S. Army Staff Sgt.

Edward Carman, deceased

University of New Hampshire's Carsey Institute, which examines rural issues.

Diminished opportunities are one factor in higher military enlistment rates in rural areas. From 1997 to 2003, 1.5 million rural workers lost their jobs due to changes in industries like manufacturing that have traditionally employed rural workers, according to the Carsey Institute.

Rural communities are "being asked to pay a bigger price for this military adventure, if I can use that word, than their urban counterparts," O'Hare said.

As a result, in more than a thousand small towns across the country — from Glendive, Mont., to Barnwell, S.C., to Caledonia, Miss., and from Hardwick, Vt., to Clinton, Ohio — friends and families have been left struggling to make sense of a loved one's death in Iraq. It's a struggle that hits with a special intensity in tight-knit, small towns.

"In a small community, even if you don't know somebody's name you at least know their face, you've seen them before, talked to them maybe," said Chuck Bevington, whose 22-year-old brother Allan, from Beaver Falls, Pa., died in Iraq, after volunteering for a second tour. "A small community feels it a lot tighter because they've had more contact with each other."

Even strangers come up and hug his mother, he said.

2-20-07

Bogged down in a bogus war

By DOREE JENSEN

Rapid City, S.D

During World Wars I and II, it was proper and patriotic for American families to stand up and support our government's fight against tyranny. We fought to defend the United States against its enemies, and when we lost loved ones we honored them for their sacrifices in defending the Constitution and our way of life.

We are getting bogged down in a bogus war on terror in Iraq, which is really a civil war between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, and are spending billions of dollars so Bush and Cheney can save face. We are allowing the government to put the interests of certain politicians above the interests and welfare of the American people and our troops.

Now, my 19-year-old son has entered the military in the Marine Corps and will probably be deployed to the military conflicts in Afghanistan or Iraq. If this was World War I or World War II, I would be proud to see him go to fight for the American flag and the defense of our country.

So I ask myself, what are we fighting for in Afghanistan and Iraq? The vital interests of the United States? Or the vital interests of the oil companies, defense contractors and Halliburton? The war in Iraq is based on keeping the American people in constant fear of terrorism.

What I fear the most is that this so-called war on terror will continue indefinitely to keep the money flowing to the military-industrial complex while our infrastructure in the United States, our roads, our bridges and our beautiful country, deteriorates.

My son and I come from a warrior society. We are of Oglala-Rosebud descent. We are proud of our heritage and proud to be Americans. My son will go fight for the star-spangled banner and the republic for which it stands. And I will always be there to support him and to worry about him if he is stationed in Afghanistan or Iraq. Yet, while my son serves in the military and I support him, the state of South Dakota and the United States will be attempting to take away more and more of our tribal sovereignty and homelands, trying to plan us out of existence.

So, I pondered like many mothers when my 19-year-old left to serve his country as a Marine. He left to fight for a country that does not support him, does not honor his tribe's treaty rights and for various other reasons, like just being an American Indian. Yet his own values and beliefs stand beyond the mere support of his country. He is willing and brave enough to enlist in the military because he believes in freedom and fighting not only for his own people, but for the people of the United States of America.

Everyone has an opinion about the war in Iraq. When does the war come to an end? When the American people understand and admit that it is based on lies and demand that it is time that Iraq be returned to the Iraqi people and that the federal government must begin the process of bringing our troops home.

My prayer, as my son goes to serve his country with honor, is that he will one day come home to me and live a full, happy life.

Many suicidal vets don't seek help

Bis. Tribune

LITCHFIELD, Minn. (AP) — After David Fickel had been honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, friends and family members noticed he changed from a fun-loving guy to an anxious, angry man. They urged him to get help.

"We tried," said his stepfather, Mitch Aanden. "He said, 'No, I'm tough. I am a Marine.'"

Fickel, 25, took his own life with a shotgun last Memorial Day.

He is one of 13 active-duty or discharged servicemen under age 30 who committed suicide in Minnesota between Jan. 1, 2003, and last October, according to death records. Star Tribune interviews with relatives of 10 of those veterans said their loved ones hadn't sought counseling.

Experts say many suicide victims don't seek treatment, and surveys show six of 10 servicemen who need mental health counseling don't seek it.

Suicide by war veterans gained attention after Jonathan Schulze, a Marine veteran who fought in Iraq, took his life Jan. 16. His family says the St. Cloud VA Medical Center turned him

away when he talked of suicide. Veterans Affairs officials won't comment and officials are investigating.

But his death raised concerns about the needs of 1.4 million troops whose duties in Iraq and Afghanistan can involve intense combat. Recent research found that nearly one in six recent combat veterans reported experiencing depression, general anxiety or post-traumatic stress.

In Iraq and Kuwait, 22 U.S. soldiers killed themselves in 2005, nearly double the national rate, an Army study found.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is nearly four times as common in veterans of Army or Marine ground units in Iraq and Afghanistan than in servicemen in other units, according to a 2005 study in the New England Journal of Medicine.

People who commit suicide often have depression, relationship problems or alcohol- and drug-abuse problems.

"All these things are warning signs, and the more you have, the more likely it is to happen," said Dr. Paula Clayton, retired head of the University of

Minnesota psychiatry department and now medical director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in New York.

Dr. Martha Sajatovic, a psychiatry professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, said post-traumatic stress complicates treatment.

"If I have a problem already, and I toss another problem on top of that, the burden I have to struggle with is going to be greater," said Sajatovic.

The Department of Veterans Affairs says it's working to improve services for vets and it has programs.

"Everyone at the VA wants to reach these guys and get them in and support them when they come home," said Dr. Lawrence E. Adler, director of a VA mental health research center in Denver, which this month co-sponsored a conference on veteran suicide.

The day before his death, Fickel talked to his sisters and best friend about killing himself. They said they got him away from his loaded shotgun, and spent the evening around a bonfire in his sisters' back yard. They thought he was better, but he took his life the next day.

2-19-07

Most people do not believe conflict is inevitable

By D'ARCY DORAN
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — A majority of people around the world do not believe the world is locked in a "clash of civilizations" that will lead to violent conflict between Islam and the West, according to findings of a poll published today.

The British Broadcasting Corp. World Service poll of more than 28,000 people found that 56 percent of respondents believed "common ground can be found" between Muslims and Westerners, while only 28 percent said violence was

inevitable.

The survey also found that 52 percent of people believed that tensions between Muslims and Westerners were caused by political power and interests, compared to 29 percent who said religion and culture were to blame.

The poll was conducted for the BBC by the international polling firm Globescan and the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland.

Pollsters questioned about 1,000 people in 27 different countries, including the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, India, and

Brazil, Mexico and Australia; as well as four predominantly Muslim countries: Egypt, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia; and two countries with large Muslim populations: Lebanon and Nigeria.

The respondents were interviewed in person and over the phone from November to mid-January. The margin of error ranges from 2.5 percent to 4 percent, depending on the country.

Since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, countries around the world have struggled with how to deal with Islamic radicalism at home and abroad. The poll's results are

hopeful, given they show most people believe differences between Muslims and Westerners can be worked out, said Steven Kull, director of PIPA at the University of Maryland.

"Most people around the world clearly reject the idea that Islam and the West are caught in an inevitable clash of civilizations," he said.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents blamed tensions on intolerant minorities — not cultural groups as a whole. But 26 percent identified fundamental differences between the cultures as the root cause.

2-19-07

Dear Senator Cook and Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank the committee for finally having this hearing for the people of North Dakota.

My name is Paul Dyer. I have served as a member of the Army Special Operations command for more than a decade. I have had the pleasure of serving my country and I have had the joy of leading troops in harms way. I have and always will defend and support the freedom of this country. Some may say that because I am opposed to the troop surge, as well as to this war, that this is an unpatriotic act but that is far from being true. Jefferson once said that the most patriotic act an American can do is to tell their Representatives that they are not doing what is in the best interest of its people.

I am a father - I am a friend - and more importantly I am a North Dakotan which is why I am here - which is why we are all here. I am not going to give you religious doctrine about the reasons why we should not continue this war. I am not going to give you facts about the affliction on the North Dakota people that will come from this war. I, myself, am battling with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This will likely never have a cure.

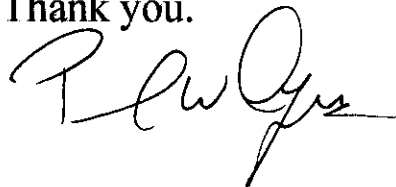
Since most of you don't know who Bono is I have changed my mind as to what I thought you would know and what I thought you should know. The apathy of the North Dakota Senators, Representatives and the Governor has created a sad state for which I live. The reason I say this is because if you lived among the people of the state and have not noticed the sadness then you are just living in this state and that is not good enough. The apathy of the leadership in this state has created racial abhorrence. Its apathy has created more bankrupt farmers than any other state. Its apathy has created a state where graduates earn less than poverty wages but our leaders vote themselves an increase in salary. This state's

apathy has overlooked the advantage of wind energy for which North Dakota has the highest potential and is doing nothing to harness its economical potential. The fact is, an increase in untrained troops will do nothing at all but increase the death toll of Americans. The fact is, this increase is going back to what has already been tried and what has already failed. I don't support this idea.

Recently I talked with a soldier who just got back from the box you call Iraq. In talking with him I was able to give him comfort and understanding. He too, suffers from PTSD. I am unable to give him a job but I am able to give him support because that's what leaders do. Where is your support for the many veterans of this and past conflicts? Where is your support for the soldiers and their destroyed families?

I am asking you Senator Cook and the Committee Members to put your apathy aside and vote against this war. Put your apathy down and do not send one more penny to the Federal Government to fund this war. Put your apathy down and start doing progressive things to support our troops and vote to bring them home now. Your apathy is destroying this great land of North Dakota that Theodore Roosevelt was once so very proud of. Don't let your apathy destroy another life in Iraq.

Thank you.



I urge you to vote Do Pass

Senator Cook and Member of the committee:

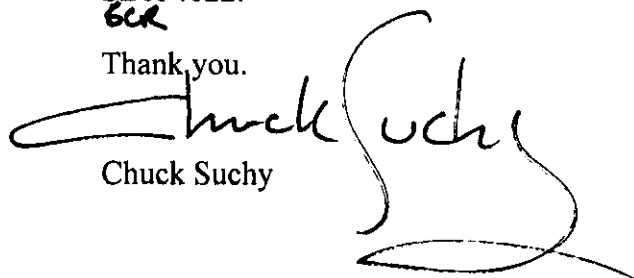
My name is Chuck Suchy and I live in Morton County, south of Mandan. I'm here to voice my support of SCR 4022. My wife Linda and I were not in favor of our country's entry into this war and have been continually horrified and deeply saddened by the tragic chain of events and the effect of the war on our country.

I live in a neighborhood of salt-of-the-earth, common sense folks and am heartened by the growing number of them who feel as I do concerning this war - that it is senseless to spend our precious resources of money and especially our soldiers on such an ill-founded venture. I know many who felt from the beginning that the war was a mistake but were fearful that offering opposition to the war meant opposition to our troops and country.

I have sent money to an organization which supplies soldiers with more effective helmet liners which allow more comfort and safety to the wearer. I now am grateful for the privilege of supporting those soldiers with words of hope that you will vote a do-pass on SDR 4022.

6/24

Thank you.


Chuck Suchy

Chairman Cook and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Alexander, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck. I stand before you today because I support our troops, I support their families, and I support peace in Iraq. As a pastor, I have seen the effects of war upon my congregation. Servicemen and women, as well as their loved ones, are to be honored and praised for their sacrifices. They have indeed been many. Each day, I pray for our troops -- for their health, wellbeing, safety. They have served well, they have shown much courage, and their job is done. I can't think of a better way to thank our troops than to reunite them with their families and friends. Let's say, "Thank you. We honor you. It is time to come home."

When I think of home, my thoughts travel to the people of Iraq. Each day, I pray for them, too. They are not nameless, faceless "enemies." They are not "collateral damage." They are people, like us. They struggle, as our troops struggle, in times of conflict and war. Like us, the Iraqi people long for a better world for their children. My faith teaches me that we are to be like parents to all children of the world, including the children of Iraq.

Our troops arrived in Iraq with a sense of purpose and possibility, a hope that they would be of service. Their service is now complete. There is no greater victory than doing the right thing at the right time. Let us all be victorious in peace. Let us express true gratitude to the troops, true compassion for the Iraqi people, and true participation in the democratic process. Please make a "Do Pass" recommendation on SCR 4022. Let us pursue peace. Let us, at last, bring our troops home.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO END THE WAR

"Chairman Cook and committee members, for the record I'm Vinod Seth, a ND physician testifying in support of Senate concurrent resolution 4022.

THE fourth anniversary of our attack on Iraq is fast approaching. March 19th it will be 1472 days of violence, destruction, fear, helplessness, horror and death for children, women and men of Iraq, and America and other nations of our world.

Loved ones back home wait for our soldiers to return. Thousands have not returned, many more thousands have been physically injured, almost 150000 suffer from critical injuries to their mental health according to the army's own data.

War is indeed hell. For some veterans the hell that is war never ends. That hell is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD) Those suffering from PTSD re-experience the inciting event as nightmares or flashbacks, triggered by things that resemble the trauma. Sleeplessness, anger, detachment, depression, substance abuse, intense anxiety and panic make functioning in social and family life difficult if not impossible. Occupational instability, marital and family problems make life a veritable hell, both for the soldiers and their loved ones.

Most soldiers hide their symptoms for fear of being stigmatized as weak and denied career advancement. According to Army data, in Iraq, our soldiers have been exposed to more traumatic events than soldiers in past wars - 3 of 4 soldiers personally said they knew someone who had been seriously wounded or killed. More than half said they experienced the explosion of a roadside bomb or booby trap nearby.

Are we setting up an epidemic of PTSD. The statistics are mind numbing.

-650,000 soldiers have been to Iraq/Afghanistan so far.

-170,000 have gone more than once. PTSD rates are 50% higher in this latter group.

-2005 17% of returning soldiers had major mental health problems, 30% higher than in 2004.

-Up to 40 soldiers are evacuated from Iraq each month due to psychiatric illness.

150,000 MENTALLY ill.

Its time for peace.

As the late Molly Ivins wrote "This war is being prosecuted in our names, with our money, with our blood and against our will"

There has already been too much pain.

Its time for peace.

I stand for questions.

Att. #1

Lewis Lubka – Fargo Feb. 22, 2007

Chairman Cook and Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee,
My name is Lewis Lubka. I reside in District 11 and am proud to be a constituent of
Sen. Tim Mathern who is a co-sponsor of Concurring Resolution No. 4022

Debate, dissent and discussion are at the heart of democracy. Many other states are
holding similar hearings. The people want a voice in their future.

I'm here because I am concerned about our future. I served as a parachute rifleman
in the 82nd Airborne Division and made 12 jumps out of airplanes. Now I'm glad to
jump out of bed in the morning. This shirt that I am wearing was my uniform 61
years ago. As you can see, it may be a little tight in the midsection, but it still fits.

There was only one way to get into the airborne – you had to volunteer. If I thought
my country was in any danger, I would volunteer again. I turned 80 this past
summer and can still handle a gun. The most powerful nation in the world is not
endangered by a small Middle East country. The war is about oil. The longer we
stay in Iraq, the more enemies and terrorists we will create and we will continue to
throw more billions into the pockets of a bunch of crooked no-bid war profiteers.

We are supposed to be nation building but we are doing nation destruction. We are
trying to get the Iraqi people to carry the can for us. We failed to get the Vietnamese
to do it and we will never succeed in Iraq. We would still be in Vietnam if millions
of Americans hadn't protested on the streets and in the voting booths.

Two of the policy making groups in Washington are the neocons and the realists.
Among the realists is Gen. Abizaid, former commander-in-chief in Iraq, He is of
Lebanese descent, served with the UN in Lebanon and earned a master's degree in
Middle Eastern studies from Harvard. He served in the 504 Parachute Infantry
Regiment, which was my regiment. With his knowledge and expertise he says that
the addition of more troops would not improve the situation in Iraq. Bush, who
barely made it through college, is pushing for an escalation.

We were told that this war wouldn't affect the country's budget. Now we are feeling
the cuts in social programs, health programs, housing, education, agricultural
programs and they are trying to cut Social Security, Medicare, NPR, PBS and so
forth. It's an old truism that you can't have guns and butter too.

Support the troops by bringing them home, by helping them when they get here. I
had the GI Bill of Rights when I was discharged in 1946. What awaits those that
return now? Another rotation back into combat.

There is old story about an Emperor who paraded in the nude in front of his people
and his propaganda machine, his embedded press, talked about how nice his clothes
were. A boy said, but the Emperor has no clothes! I say the Emperor has no brains.
The proposed troop increase in Iraq is the misguided escalation of a failed policy.

I URGE YOU TO VOTE DO PASS

TESTAMONY FOR SCR 4022

Herbert J. Wilson, MD

Senator Dwight C. Cook, Chair

Political Subdivisions Committee Members

Good Day. I am Dr. Herbert Wilson, somewhat of a veteran of 43 yrs of rural medicine in New Town, and 11 years veteran of semi-retirement in Bismarck. I am a real combat veteran of WWII, and I feel like a vicarious vet of all the other wars our country has fought in the last 100 yrs. May I speak from a soldier's point of view?

It has taken me some time, and a good deal of mental anguish, to decide to come down on the side of troop withdrawal from Iraq. I have not made the decision lightly. I know of many whose patriotism will place them in a similar dilemma, and I want to tell them how I reached my decision, I urge them to opt for winding down the conflict.

Quickly now, let me mime with headgear, good (justified) 20th Century war involvement. This is through both my father's eyes and my own. This 1915 campaign hat was worn by Dad on his way to fight Poncho Villa, on the Mexican border. Now, this steel helmet was my father's in 1917- the "war to end all wars". He stood up to his thighs in the muddy water of the trenches, contracting a rheumatoid arthritis that would make him 100% disabled for life. Now, we come to my participation—US Army Air Force -31 missions in heavy bombardment, in Liberators. Then post war, a First Lieutenant in the Coast guard. On to North Dakota—Civil Air Patrol—then the cold war—here is a Soviet cap from a military visitor- we found common ground. And finally here I am fighting Gulf war battles, with the American Legion cap cheering on. In reviewing all these conflicts, I consider myself, and my father before me (in spite of what it did to him).fiercely patriotic -it was my country right or wrong—but it happened always to be RIGHT.

What makes today so different? Well:

In other wars we fought to liberate oppressed people. In this war we seem to be creating oppression.

In other wars, while affecting enemy civilians to some extent, this war seems predominantly to be affecting helpless women and children.

In other wars, we have had a united home front. Today, sixty percent of Americans disagree with the war.

Graft and corruption have always accompanied supplying the military, but never has there been such extensive profiteering and dishonesty as at this time.

Most people in America do not know why we started fighting or what victory we are expected to win.

On the other hand, most of the service men and women in this conflict have a sense of camaraderie and purpose. They work together splendidly. The efficiency and beauty of our National Guard is such that we want their interaction to continue, but we know that without a vision or honorable goal, heroism can lead to tragedy.

It is not so with the enemy, more or less invisible. Their misplaced devotion drives them to suicidal actions. More of our troops will just mean more sacrificial car bombs with continuing devastation.. .

Just think where young America could go without this war over their heads.

Please support this resolution-- a resolution being duplicated in many other states.

Herbert J. Wilson
22 February 2007

Chairman Cook and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, I am the Rev. James Moos. I am an ordained minister serving the Bismarck United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote that "The ultimate weakness of violence is that . . . instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it." The American experience in Iraq validates the Rev. King's prophetic words. Nearly four years of war has not defeated evil; it has defiled good.

The war in Iraq isn't merely a political issue. It's also a faith issue. North Dakota has more churches per capita than any other state in the nation. What does our faith mean at this point in our history? Shall we use it to justify further acts of violence? Or shall we declare escalation of the war to be the will of God? We should not. For while we come from various faith traditions, none of us worship the God of war; most of us honor the Prince of Peace.

Many of us feel a tension between our faith convictions and our patriotic duty. We feel an obligation to support our country in time of war. But let's not assume that making war is a greater civic duty than making peace.

As a 22 year veteran of the United States Air Force, I too have patriotic ideals. As a retired reserve chaplain, I too support the troops. But inserting thousands more troops into the midst of ever escalating sectarian violence isn't support—it's a descent into despair.

Our commander in Iraq, Lt. General David Petraeus, recently testified before the U.S. Senate. He said that the outcome of our current Iraq policy is far from certain. However, I believe this much can be predicted: our present course of action means that more of our soldiers and marines will die, more will be maimed, more will be inflicted with psychological trauma that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

Retired General and former Secretary of State Colin Powell opposes the troop surge. He has also stated that the world questions the moral basis of the war. Shall we further diminish the status of our nation in the world by escalating the war? A faith-based witness for peace does not contradict patriotism; it fulfills it.

There are those who consider peacemaking a noble but impracticable and naïve enterprise; it's hard to see how it applies in the post 9/11 world. Alternative, political strategies for ending the war put forward by the Baker-Hamilton Commission were rejected out of hand by the Bush administration. Indeed, dire predictions circulate that any course of action other than continuing the war and surging more troops—any other course of action will allegedly destabilize the Middle East and put America and the world at risk. In this scenario, peacemaking appears as an actual threat. Some have declared that opposition to current policy only emboldens our enemies.

So who among us will label Jesus Christ naïve for pronouncing the peacemakers blessed? Or was Pope John Paul II being impractical when he condemned war and used peaceful means to help liberate Eastern Europe from Communism? Or was Ghandi's message of non-violence not only futile, but also de-stabilizing? No, these peacemakers were not well intentioned but misguided and even dangerous fools. Their courageous visions of peace grounded in justice are our best and only hope for the future.

The brutality of Saddam Hussein and of Al Qaeda are well known and incontestable. The carnage and suffering caused by roadside bombs and suicide bombers is a daily and horrific reality. Our response has been to meet the enemy on their own, violent terms. The result has not been victory as promised, but an escalating spiral that kills not only the body, but also the soul.

Most if not all of us would affirm that we are created in the image of God; the continuance and escalation of the war diminishes that image. Meeting violence with violence ultimately recreates us into the image of our enemies.

Nevertheless, faith does not call us to despair, but to hope. Many North Dakotans now step forward to raise our voices in hope that another path will be taken. I respectfully request the members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee to amplify our voices by recommending a "do-pass" on SCR No. 4022.

Rev. Dr. James Moos
jmoos@midconetwork.com
Work: 701-223-2915

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4022

Page 1, line 2, replace "disengage American combat forces from Iraq duty" with "Afghanistan"

Page , line 3, after "Iraq" insert "and Afghanistan" and remove "in the midst of an Iraq civil"

Page 1, line 4, remove "and sectarian war"

Page 1, remove lines 5 and 6

Page 1, after line 8, insert "That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly supports our brave men and women of the armed forces, their sacrifice, and commitment to duty; and

Page 1, line 10, after "Iraq and" insert "Afghanistan" and remove "disengage American combat forces from Iraq duty"

SENATE RESOLUTION 4022
February 22, 2007

John L. Jacobsen, Colonel AUS (Ret)

Chairman Cook, members of the Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is John Jacobsen. I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion Posts here in Bismarck, also a member of the Association of the United States Army, Military Officers Association of America, and the Reserve Officers Association. I am a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. I served a total of 30 years in the North Dakota National Guard and the US Army Reserve, along with active duty in the Persian Gulf.

I am here today to testify against SCR 4022. Approval of this resolution goes against the President of the United States who is the Commander-in-Chief of all of the Armed Services of the United States. It also sends a message to our soldiers, many of them from North Dakota, that the North Dakota State Legislature does not support them by asking for a withdrawal of troops before the mission is complete.

During the Vietnam era, Jane Fonda spoke against the war and actually visited North Vietnam in protest of that war. This is still regarded as an act of treason by those soldiers, sailors and airmen who served during that conflict.

I consider this resolution to be an insult to our brave young men and women who are currently serving or have served in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

I therefore am asking for a DO NOT PASS on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4022.

Thank You

John L. Jacobsen

Dear Senators,

My name is Jay Gotta. I am from Bismarck.

I stand before you today to testify in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 4022.

It is my belief that the United States is embroiled in a battle against radical elements of Islam that seek the destruction of our way of life. Further, I believe that Iraq is the central front in that war. Although I commend the sponsors for their desire for peace, this resolution sends our President the wrong message. A lasting and meaningful peace cannot be achieved without success in Iraq.

We fight an enemy that cannot defeat us in open military conflict. Their only hope is to weaken the will and moral of the American people to win this conflict. The radicals have made several statements to this effect. This resolution is exactly what the radical elements of Islam hope for. A withdrawal of US forces from Iraq, prior to there being a stable Iraqi government, will mean failure for the United States. If we leave Iraq without achieving our goals, the radicals will believe that Allah is on their side, and has granted them a great victory. Our failure will only embolden the radicals to continue in their twisted cause. We will have created a new safe haven for terrorists to plan, train, and implement their evil, in the heart of the Middle East.

Failure in Iraq will not enhance our nation's security. We are in a fight we must win. Although this resolution has good intentions, it sends our President, our troops, and our enemy, the wrong message. Perhaps the North Dakota legislature would be better served to draft a resolution that supports the efforts of our President and armed forces, to secure victory in Iraq. A unified message would show our enemies that although our political parties may disagree on domestic policy, when it comes to matters of war, our disagreements end at the waters edge.

Lastly, I am disturbed by the language of this resolution that discusses the sponsors "expectations". It makes me wonder how close we are to the sponsor's expectation in Afghanistan, and will I soon see a similar resolution for our withdrawal in that country as well?

Hon. Dwight Cook, Chairman
Committee on Political Subdivisions
North Dakota Senate

Chairman Cook and members of the committee,

I write in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 4022. My opposition is based upon the following:

The Iraq and Middle-East situation is very complex, to say the least. There is no way to know if increasing American military presence in Iraq will help stabilize the new government, or whether it will be of no avail. However, there is a greater possibility that the reduction of American forces at this time will put the new Iraqi government in mortal danger which, in all probability, it will not survive. A failed Iraq State is an unacceptable option. There is disagreement among our military leaders, Middle-East specialists, Iraqi leaders, and our own Congress as to how this struggle may be approached and eventually resolved.

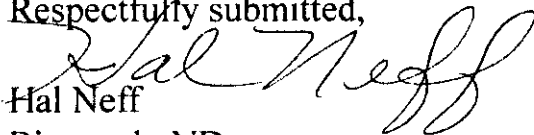
The action of the North Dakota Legislature with a Resolution contributes nothing to solving this difficult problem facing our national leaders in Washington D.C. However, it may have the unintended consequence of alienating citizens of our state who feel that this is an abandonment of our military and national guard and their families, as well as the many citizens who support them.

This is a very divisive issue. People have strongly held positions on both sides of this resolution, as was demonstrated these past weeks as our nation's congress grappled with this issue. There is no compelling reason, no vital economic interest, and certainly no directive from our State's Constitution that the North Dakota Legislature insinuate itself into the domain of the Federal Government as it carries out its responsibility to defend our nation and our safety and well-being.

Respectfully submitted,

Hal Neff

Bismarck, ND



Testimony on SCR 4022
February 22, 2007
Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Don Morrison, NDPeople.Org

Chairman Cook and members of the committee, by name is Don Morrison and I am the Executive Director of NDPeople.Org, a statewide advocacy group.

The case has been made that the American people and most North Dakotans have major concerns about the war in Iraq that has led most of us to oppose sending 21,500 additional U.S. troops. This resolution is a respectful and necessary statement from North Dakotans.

We are not here today to debate whether or not we can talk about our nation's policy in Iraq. It is obviously the duty and responsibility of a person who lives in a democracy to know about and to discuss such a critical issue. Certainly, no reasonable person would expect Americans to follow blindly just because those with power say so.

This morning, others have made the case with overwhelming evidence that a different policy is needed in Iraq. Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of this committee for having this discussion in the North Dakota Senate. We probably should have had this discussion a long time ago. It is correct and proper that we do this.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."

Benjamin Franklin warned that those who would "give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty nor security." Our country and our troops will be stronger for what we do today and passage of this resolution will be part of that strengthening of American democracy.

So, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning on the impact and cost that the continuation and escalation of the Iraq War has on the states and taxpayers.

I found a variety of estimates of the cost of the War in Iraq. They range from \$378 billion to \$2 trillion. Of course the studies are measuring different things, but, one thing is obvious: continuing to increase the cost of this war means funds are not available for deficit reduction, health care, education, safety transportation and other important needs of North Dakotans and Americans. Certainly we know that Iraq War funding continues to increase the deficit. The cost which is compounded with interest will eventually have to be paid by American taxpayers.

The \$378 billion estimate includes only incremental budgetary costs, not interest costs or future costs. The number is based on the legislation appropriating funding for the Iraq War and Congressional Research Service reports through last year. Adding another 21,500 American troops will cost American taxpayers another \$5.6 billion per year. The cost for North Dakota

taxpayers so far is estimated at \$456.1 million. These numbers come from the National Priorities Project. According to the CBO, with the coming fiscal year request by the President included, the cost goes over \$500 billion.

The war is essentially financed through deficit spending so interest payments over time could amount to another \$100 billion more. When the war began, the cost estimates were \$50 billion.

A year ago the Congressional Budget Office said the Pentagon was spending about \$6 billion a month on the War in Iraq or about \$200 million a day. All of these numbers so far are the low numbers.

Scott Wallsten of the conservative American Enterprise Institute, in September 2005 put the cost of the war at \$500 billion with another \$500 billion possible with most of the total borne by the United States.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz puts the war cost at between \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion. That includes \$300 billion for future health care costs for wounded troops. Additional costs include an impact from added interest on the national debt and major capital investment to replace military equipment depleted or destroyed by the war.

I would suggest that as you legislate you remember how much money the War in Iraq is costing. When you want to improve North Dakota schools, transportation, or the quality of life of people here, and don't have enough money, think about the spending on a war that is a civil war where we are no longer wanted by those we are told we are fighting for. Continuing to spend taxpayers' money for something that is not working is an issue that matters to you as state legislators.

The human costs of this war are important to us. We honor our friends and family who are serving in Iraq. They are doing their job. The fact that North Dakota ranks fourth among the states in terms of the number of casualties compared to our population is a matter of honor, but it also needs to be recognized by us and by legislators as to its impact on our state and people. We need to ask what it means to our security and safety here in North Dakota when so many of our National Guard are serving overseas.

It is important to state that going to war is not decided on how much it will cost. However, in this war especially, going to war was a choice. We were not attacked by Iraq like we were in 1941 at Pearl Harbor. There was no eminent danger to the United States. Actually, the US attack on Iraq was a well-documented major shift in American global policy to a first strike policy. That was a choice. Staying in an Iraqi civil war is also a choice.

It is our responsibility to talk here in this room in a respectful, honest way about one of the most important issues facing our nation and our planet. This is one of the places we should have this discussion. I would urge you to be cautious of anyone who says it is not your job to listen and work with your constituents.

We ask that you recommend a DO PASS on SCR 4022.

Chairman Cook and Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee:

My name is Cameron White and I am a Marine Corps veteran. I served two combat tours in Iraq and I have witnessed the horrors of war. The truth is that the war does not end or stay in Iraq. We veterans carry the images of dead men, women, and children with us everywhere we go. The war follows us and we relive it everyday in several ways. For some that comes in the form of PTSD, and for others it is due to the physical injuries and disabilities such as loss of limbs or vision or hearing.

Over 23, 000 members of our armed forces have been wounded in Iraq, and many more in Afghanistan. Our troops are not fighting a war to liberate a country, they are not looking for weapons of mass destruction, and they are not fighting a war on terror. These are fallacies. Instead they are fighting for survival, fighting to come home, and fighting for each other. They fight for the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen next to them -- so that they can all come home and preferably in one piece.

That is why they fight. And that is no reason to put our troops in harm's way. We cannot tell our servicemen and women that we support our troops and then send them off to risk their lives for reasons that we cannot honestly justify. The United States citizens have spoken up by voting to change out our policymakers and shift our direction in Iraq. But this is being ignored by the current administration, and so we must ask our representatives to step up and make those changes on our behalf -- for the troops and the constituents. Find an alternative to the troop surge, work on a real exit strategy, save the lives that we can, and prevent more young men and women from becoming casualties of this war, either on the battlefield or here at home.

I urge you to recommend "Do Pass" on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4022.

Thank you.

February 22, 2007

#16
#17

Dear Chairman Cook and Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution N. 4022. We are at a critical juncture in the conduct of the war in Iraq, and it is time for reason to prevail. I'd like to make several key points as to why North Dakota should send this message to Washington.

First, the war itself was an ill-conceived response to terrorism. Terrorism is not a military target, it is an ideology, and must be treated accordingly. Most thoughtful academic and diplomatic analyses point to the fact that the use of force has only served to widen the base of terrorism, to alienate our allies, and to squander the tremendous outpouring of support, from around the world, which America received after the attacks of 9/11.

Secondly, with continued investigation, it is clear that the American public and the Congress were manipulated into this war. The public has now clearly seen the facts, and poll after poll after poll indicates substantial loss of public confidence in this Administration's conduct of the war, as well as loss of support by leaders in both political parties.

Lives lost, troops maimed, post-traumatic stress disorder; need anyone say more?

Massive financial loss of tax resources, billions of it wasted and unaccounted for which could have been wisely put to good use. For North Dakotans, this amounts to over five hundred and fifty million tax dollars. There is a clear and dramatic correlation of the rise in military spending and cuts in domestic spending.

Here at the University of North Dakota (following the Centennial initiative of our past President Thomas Clifford), we are attempting to build an infrastructure for a culture of peace. Following an emerging model that changes the emphasis on 'national security' to one focused on 'human security,' we're educating students for active roles in conflict management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, an honor to our "Peace Garden State".

Please give those students, and the citizens of our state, reason to believe that their elected officials can see a future in which reason and common sense prevail, and in which we can use our resources, both financial and human, to serve the greatest possible good.

Sincerely,

Janet Kelly Moen, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology/Peace Studies
University of North Dakota
701-777-4414
janet.moen@und.edu

#17 #18
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #4022

Chairman Senator Cook and Committee Members, for the record I am Sr. Maris Stella Korb, a Presentation Sister from Fargo and member of the ND Peace Coalition. I presently direct our Congregation's Peace and Justice Office where we work to alleviate poverty and injustice by contributing direct aid, offering education, and engaging in social activism in order to effect systemic change.

I am testifying today on behalf of Senate Concurrent Resolution #4022 from the perspective of my Catholic faith tradition which centers reverence for life at the core of its values. My basic premise is that God is the Author of all that exists, and consequently *all* life is precious regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, personal creed or political persuasion. Our faith transcends nationalism and our belief is that God has created *all* of us as sisters and brothers responsible for the well being of each other and of the planet which sustains us.

To date some 3,100 American soldiers and approximately 58,000 to 100,000 Iraqi civilians have died since the war in Iraq began four years ago. The count is too high; lives lost are too many! With 20,500 more troops planned for engagement in the area, the casualty figures in both cases will unquestionably rise. Currently we are "killing to stop the killing" and that is futile! Violence begets violence and "War is," as Pope John Paul II so aptly described it, "a defeat for humanity."

On that same occasion in January of 2003, the Pope also stated, "War cannot be decided upon, strategized or executed without taking into account consequences for the civilian population both during and after the military operations." The proposed "new surge strategy" is apparently designed to have our soldiers encamped within Baghdad neighborhoods, thus not only further endangering *their* lives, but also drawing fire into the very areas where innocent Iraqi families have made their homes. The vulnerability of women and children will be extreme!

Even if lives are spared, the psychological damage has been done. How much fear, distrust, and cruelty can a body absorb? How much loss can a young person experience before he or she decides to join the "terrorists" and fight back? *What* are we doing to other human beings who are basically no different than ourselves? *Why* are we resolved to perpetuate senseless killing which leaves only widows, orphans and refugees in its wake? *Why* prolong a war that very often sends back the best of our young people wounded in mind and/or body?

I thank you for your attention, and in closing I ask that you give a "Do Pass" recommendation to the Resolution that: "...urges Congress and the President to pursue peace in Iraq and disengage American combat forces from Iraq duty."

*Attachments
Amendments
#1 & #2*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4022

(Sprynczynatyk Amendment)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress and the President to pursue peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, American forces on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan serve bravely and merit the respect and support of all people; and

#1 **WHEREAS**, A successful conclusion of their efforts is desired in order to bring our troops back with honor and appreciation of our citizens; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly supports our brave men and women of the armed forces, their sacrifice, and commitment to duty; and

#2 That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges Congress and the President to continue to pursue peace in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 4022
February 22, 2007

John W. Ringland, SMSgt, USAF, Retired

Chairman Cook, members of the Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is John Ringland. I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (Currently District 4 Commander in ND, and Post 707 Quartermaster), American Legion, Air Force Sergeants Association, Disabled American Veterans, VFW and American Legion Honor Guard of Mandan, ND, a member of the AMVETS Post 9 in Bismarck, and 1st CEVG Veterans Supporting Our Troops organization that has provided hundreds of care packages for our troops that are currently serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am retired from the Air Force after serving 23 1/2 years of active duty. I am a veteran of Viet Nam.

I am here today to testify against SCR 4022. Approval of this resolution goes against the good that we are doing in Iraq. I have a lot of correspondence from our soldiers fighting in Iraq from the Care Packages we have sent, that express their thanks to us for supporting them and how they wish that *"all of the good work we are doing and the help we are giving for Iraq to be stabilized and free from daily worry about terrorism. The threat is real. We won't abandon them. We volunteered to be here and do our part to fight evil so it won't come to our shores."*

When I was in Viet Nam, I felt that we could of won that War, but we had to many restrictions on our ability to fight the North. We could of destroyed their ability to wage war but we could not bomb in the North. This is a new war and a different time, but I think this resolution 4022 sends the wrong message. We must support the Iraq people in their effort for a democratic government. To cut and run is not an option. What will this Resolution say to our soldiers who are currently serving or have served in either Iraq or Afghanistan?

I request a DO NOT PASS on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4022.

Thank You,


John W. Ringland
SMSgt, USAF Retired

● To all of the people at the 1st CEVG,

On behalf of all the men and women in Ramadi Iraq, I would like to express my gratitude to you.

We were lucky enough to receive some gifts and cards from your organization, and the guys literally ate it up.

I am an MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) Supervisor and so my business is "Morale". Your packages did a great deal to boost the mood of hundreds of Soldiers and Marines here in the Al Anbar Province. We are uplifted that there are people like you back home.

1PT McCandless - US Army
RA. McCandless

1GT PATRICK - USMC
Patrick

1LT JACKSON - USMC
Jackson

1LT Porter - USMC
Porter

Doug Downs
Chaplain 171AR

PJT Navarro

DW Hume

Very Respectfully,

JP

Justin N. Espinoza

Sec. Kenneth W. Water

Delinamada

Temple
Bullington
Bullington

Dear Supporters,

I just wanted to let you know that we all love your packages. They are one of the best! Your packages seem to come with love and care for each individual soldier. All who receive one from the 1st CEVG Veterans are instantly happy cause we know you guys are doing an amazing job, and putting in a big effort for us over here. I just wanted to say that we just love your packages and you all are doing an awesome job at what you do.

I know we are stationed in Kuwait, which isn't half as bad as it is up north, but being over here without your family and friends, it gets to you. We even are really missing the flat lands of North Dakota! You guys really make our day, and your doing an amazing job.

Thanks,

-Kayla

To: All of those at 1st CEVG

→ Rosemary Fleck ←

There was a box of cards at our post office. I got one and so did many others. One had a nice verse on it in Blue + Red. I wanted to say how much we all appreciate the cards, letters, & packages that got sent from America to us. The outpouring of love + support for the troops was beyond imagination. All we hear in the press is about the bad things, but if you were here, you could see all of the good work we are doing and the help we are giving for Iraq to be stabilized and free from daily worry about terrorism. The threat is real. We won't abandon them. We volunteered to be here and do our part to fight evil so it won't come to our shores.

Thanks again for your support.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Regards, Christy

Dear Rosemary,

16-Dec-06

I can't tell you how much those packages meant to all the guys in my squad. We had been out on a very important mission for 3 days, no hot chow, no showers, and it was really cold at night plus all of the gear and we walked a whole bunch. Then we get back tired, dirty, smelling quite bad. And we get all of your boxes with all those goodies man it was really up lifting to say the least. We are all extremely grateful for all your support. And please please thank all the stores and shops for all they donated, Cash Wise Foods, The Printers, Lees Hallmark, Sams Super Value, Starbucks Coffee, and Davis Super Market North thank you so much. We are always handing out candy to the kids when we are out on patrol so the footsie pops I am sure they will love. I think I have enough cards to hand out to most of the company and the prayers. I am going to give to the battalion chaplain to hand out on Sundays. Thank everyone so much for everything and God Bless you all!

Spec. Copeland
S.A. Copeland

Dear Rosemary Fleck,

I received a couple care packages from you the other day. And I have got to say, you put together one mean care package!

It's always exciting getting mail, but opening the boxes was even more exciting.

It was tough leaving my family, but I'm glad I'm here, and I'm proud to be serving my country.

I'm 22 years old, been married for 3 years, and I have a 17 month old daughter. It tore my heart in half to leave her at such a young age. But my husband, Josh, sends pictures pretty regularly.

The climate here took some getting used to. It gets cold at night, but it sure doesn't feel like January. At least not the North Dakota Januarys that I've become accustomed to!

My tour isn't over until November. But I just take everything one day at a time.

Again, thank you so much for the wonderful packages. And thank you for all of your support.

SFC Lacie Brisson

2 Jan 07

Dear Rosemary,

I would like to take this time to personally thank you for the Christmas Card. And also thanks to all the nice thought words & prayers. They all helped brighten my day. Bottom line Thank you for all the support. Thanks again for the Care Package.

Sincerely,

Travis
Mortell

05 Oct.,2006

1st. CEVG / Ms Fleck.

I just arrived back at my office after receiving a "mail call". I was surprised to find a large box from "Veterans Supporting Our Troops".

I opened the box and was impressed with the very generous and appropriate assortment of goods! Especially touching were the enclosed cards to the "troops".

I support the mission here. I try at every opportunity to show gratitude to the soldiers serving us. I especially enjoy the "uplifting" associations I have with these motivated people.

They have done much to renew my confidence in our future!

I sleep well at night because they are disciplined, alert and capable; their protection extends globally, unfortunately too few appreciate it! We are "out of the loop here", we know little about what's happening outside of the "wire". We only hear the distant rumblings. I say a little silent prayer when the Blackhawk's fly in to the hospital; those flights have been far too frequent lately!

I want you to know that your thoughtful gifts are now in the hands of some very grateful young US Marines. It "made my day" seeing a bunch of young soldiers enjoy the generosity and good will sent from home. I took the liberty of boldly marking the box:

From: North Dakota!

Thanks to all for what you do for our soldiers!

Sincerely,

Tom

Thomas Eckroth RLS



From the Commander, 1-221st Cavalry Squadron
Discipline. Professionalism. Competence in the Field.

Rosemary,

Wanted to thank you and your organization for all the support. Most of my soldiers are from Las Vegas and Reno but I am originally from Devils Lake ND.

All the soldiers here really appreciate how supportive all the people are back home.

Thanks again,

Robert D Brown
SGM

Rosemary Fleck,

11 Nov 06

I just wanted to thank
you for sending me the
care package and for
supporting us while we are
over here. You really did do
a good job on all the stuff
that is in here. Well I have
to go now.

Thank You Again

Randy Williams

Dear Ms. Fleck,

I would like to thank you and the 1st CEVG Veterans Group for all your letters, packages and prayers. We are all truly grateful to do our part and humbled to follow in the footsteps of the American Heroes that comprise your organization. Life in Iraq for a year was both challenging and rewarding. The perseverance of the American Soldier as well as the spirit of the Iraqi People is alive and ever present throughout this conflict. We truly understand that what's in the polls or on the news is not important or necessarily the truth. What is important is the ready support of Americans like yourself and the thousands that comprise the silent majority who know in their hearts that we are doing the right thing and that our sacrifices are well spent.

I am currently in Kuwait now working to get our unit home. It has been a long hard year and we are extremely excited to finally see our families and loved ones again. A year away from home in a harsh environment watching others struggle for freedom truly puts a new perspective on life and on what's important. I hope and pray that Americans appreciate the great country that they live in and the freedoms that they enjoy, as a result of the sacrifices of Americans of the past. It is people like you and the 1st CEVG Veterans Group that make the USA the greatest nation on earth and it is our duty and our privilege to support and defend her.

Respectfully,

God Bless!!
D. S. McKinn

Dear Rosemary Fleck,

I received a couple care packages from you the other day. And I have got to say, you put together one mean care package!

It's always exciting getting mail, but opening the boxes was even more exciting.

It was tough leaving my family, but I'm glad I'm here, and I'm proud to be serving my country.

I'm 22 years old, been married for 3 years, and I have a 17 month old daughter. It tore my heart in half to leave her at such a young age. But my husband, Josh, sends pictures pretty regularly.

The climate here took some getting used to. It gets cold at night, but it sure doesn't feel like January. At least not the North Dakota Januarys that I've become accustomed to!

My tour isn't over until November. But I just take everything one day at a time.

Again, thank you so much for the wonderful packages. And thank you for all of your support.

SFC Lacie Brisson

15 May 2006

Sir or Ma'am:

Thank you for your support. I received your care package today and I was surprised at how much was in the box! I will enjoy all of the things, and other stuff was greatly needed.

A little about me, I am 21 years old, and originally from Mississippi. I was in Iraq last year, from December 04 until December 05. I volunteered for this deployment in January, and got here in March. I like the purpose and the help that we give so others can enjoy our freedoms.

Once again, I thank you so much for the package and the support you have for us. It means so much to me and others.

W D M

Dear Mrs. Fleck,

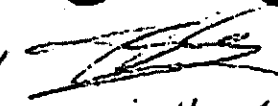
My name is MAJOR Tim Healy. I Am
CPT Russ Wolf's Team Leader here in IRAQ.
I wanted to take A moment to thank
you And the folks in the 1st CEVG Group.
All of the Team members here appreciate
the packages you have so thoughtfully sent
our way. Your kindness and generosity
makes the time away from our families
much easier to deal with. Additionally,
we share some of the gifts with the
Young Iraqi Soldiers we are training.
They have little, if any, items that
could make their life comfortable. I
hope you don't mind us sharing with
them. From All the Team members
Thanks!

=====

~~UNITED STATES~~



Best wishes to you and yours,

Sincerely,  MATT HEALY
MITT Team Chief

5 June 2006

Rosemary,

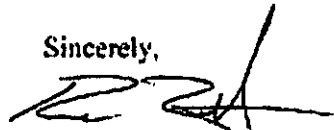
I received the packages you and your organization sent. Thank you from everyone on my team. They came just in the nick-of-time. Many of us were running out of personal hygiene items.

The packages you sent are truly a blessing. I'm not sure if you're aware of this, but we are a 10-man team that lives with an Iraqi Army unit on an Iraqi base. Each of us has a counterpart we're responsible for training. Because we live with the Iraqis we don't have access to a PX in order to buy many of the things you sent. When we do have the opportunity to go to an American PX, the selection is very limited or they are sold out the things we need.

I distributed the packages among the members of our team who wanted one. I had one left over. I'm going to give that one to my Iraqi Army counterpart. I just wanted you to know that not only are you supporting U.S. soldiers, but Iraqi soldiers as well. Your kindness will go far in demonstrating to the Iraqis that the American people are a compassionate and unselfish people. On a small scale, your actions are playing a part in building relationships between our two countries.

Thank you again. Your kindness is overwhelming to me. Everything you sent is very much appreciated by all members of my team.

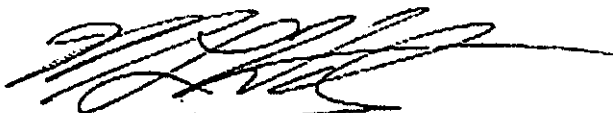
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RZ' or similar, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dear Mrs. Fleck and Mr. Dilley,

Thank you very much for the box of goodies that you had sent me. It truly means a lot to me. I am one of those unfortunate people that do not have anyone to send me mail. So if there is anything that I can do for either one of you please let me know, and I will make it happen.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. J. J.' or similar, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

#18

North Dakotans Oppose Increase

State of mind

The Forum

Published Tuesday, February 20, 2007

A recent telephone survey collected opinions from 400 North Dakotans on a variety of current topics ranging from cell phone use while driving to boosting troop numbers in Iraq. The poll conducted by DH Research, a private research firm, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent.

57% oppose President Bush's plan to increase the number of U.S. combat troops in Iraq

43% strongly oppose Bush's plan

British Withdrawal of Troops

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (UPI) -- The British withdrawal of slightly more than 21 percent of its forces in Iraq will leave overall coalition troop strength in the country at more than 143,000 soldiers.

Not counted in that total, are Iraqi government forces as well as the 21,500 new U.S. troops on their way to Iraq to help secure the capital of Baghdad and surrounding provinces.

By far, the largest force contingent represented by the overall figure are American -- about 132,000. British forces operating in southern Iraq will be about 5,500 following the initial withdrawal of 1,600 soldiers over the next few months. South Koreans, at about 2,300, make up the third-largest foreign contingent.

Poland, Romania, Georgia, Australia, El Salvador and Bulgaria also have boots on the ground in Iraq. But the numbers for each are less than 1,000 men.

Denmark, which currently has about 460 soldiers in Iraq working with the British, has announced it will withdraw its forces by summer. Their numbers are not counted in the overall figure cited above.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a staunch supporter of President George W. Bush, said Wednesday the country's 900 troops would remain in Iraq despite the British decision. Included in that number are 520 soldiers who operate in the south with British forces.

Gallup Poll Data 2007

Gallup's Pulse of Democracy

The War in Iraq

Guidance for Lawmakers

1. Most Americans support the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, but there is only limited support for an immediate withdrawal (there is also only limited support for increased troop levels).
2. Americans are divided on whether the United States should institute a timetable for withdrawal, or stay until it has achieved all its goals. When asked, Americans seem to prefer keeping troops for only about another year, but they expect troops to be there longer than that.
3. In general, public support for the war is generally divided; however, since the summer of 2005, opponents have tended to outnumber supporters.

Fine Print Opinions on the war have been sensitive to the news out of Iraq. Opinions grew more positive after Saddam Hussein's capture in December 2003 and after the first elections in Iraq in late January 2005. They grew more negative when George W. Bush asked for more money to fight the war in September 2003, after insurgents killed U.S. troops in Fallujah, and when U.S. troops were found to have abused Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib in the spring of 2004.

Context Most Americans believe the United States can win the war in Iraq, but less than half believe it will. That could be an indictment of Bush's handling of the war; his approval ratings on the Iraq issue have been in the 40% range for the better part of the past year. Though overall support for the war is divided, most Americans believe the war is not going well for the United States and believe the United States is not winning. This has been the view since September 2003, though there have been a few exceptions following positive news out of Iraq.

Urgency: Overall Iraq typically ranks at or near the top of the list
Importance as when Americans are asked to assess the importance
Political Issue of various issues to their votes.

Along with the economy, Iraq consistently ranks at the top of Gallup's open-ended "most important problem" question.

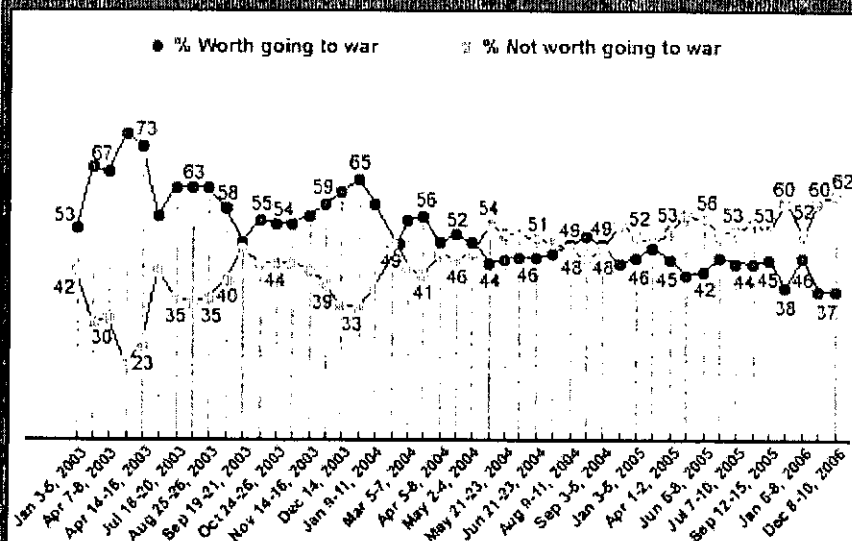
Impact on 2006 Given its high salience with the public, there is
Vote reason to believe Iraq will be a dominant issue in the 2006 midterm elections.

Democrats are now seen as better on the issue, which is notable because Republicans typically have an edge on international issues, and had been seen as better on the issue at the beginning of the war.

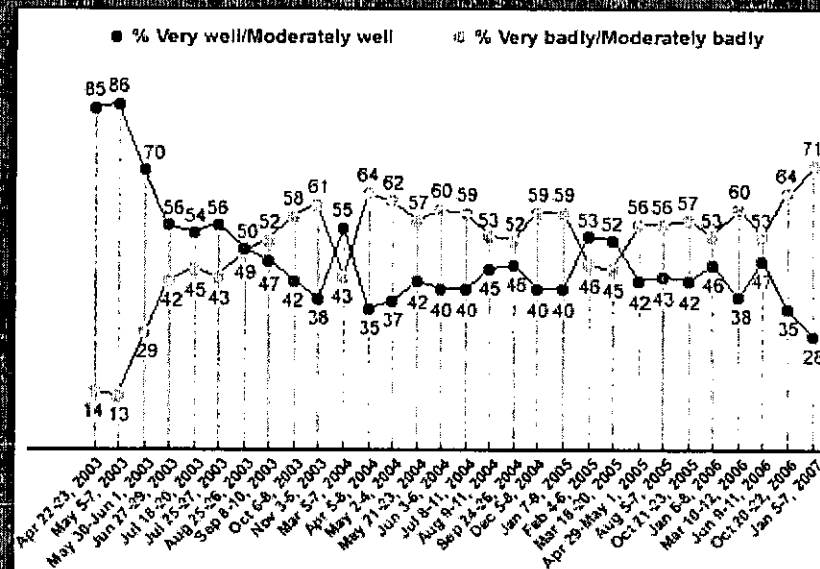
Key Subgroup Views of the Iraq war are extremely partisan.
Differences Republicans overwhelmingly support the war; Democrats overwhelmingly oppose it. Independents tend to be more opposed than in favor of the war. Support for past U.S. wars -- including Vietnam -- was not as polarized along party lines as the current war.

The Bottom Line The war is an extremely high-priority issue for Americans and is likely to be one of the top issues in this year's elections. Americans are divided on the war, largely along partisan lines. Despite sentiment that the war is not going well for the United States, only about one in five favors an immediate withdrawal of troops. Most do support a gradual withdrawal of troops, preferably within a year, but close to half may be willing to keep troops there longer to achieve U.S. goals.

All in all, do you think it was worth going to war in Iraq, or not?



In general, how would you say things are going for the U.S. in Iraq -- very well, moderately well, moderately badly, or very badly?



In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Iraq, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
	%	%	%
2007 Feb 9-11	56	42	2
2007 Jan 12-14	58	41	2
2007 Jan 5-7	57	41	2
2006 Dec 8-10 ^	53	45	2
2006 Nov 2-5	55	40	5
2006 Oct 20-22	58	40	2
2006 Oct 6-8	56	40	4
2006 Sep 15-17	49	49	2
2006 Jul 28-30	54	45	2
2006 Jul 21-23	56	41	2

Do you approve or disapprove of the way [ROTATED] are handling the situation in Iraq?

A. The Republicans in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2007 Feb 9-11	27%	70	4

B. The Democrats in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2007 Feb 9-11	30%	63	7

As you may know, the Bush administration has begun to significantly increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq to help stabilize the situation there. Do you favor or oppose this?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
2007 Feb 9-11	38%	60	2

Trend for Comparison: As you may know, the Bush administration has proposed a significant increase in the number of U.S. troops in Iraq to help stabilize the situation there. Do you favor or oppose this?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
2007 Jan 12-14	38%	59	

Would you favor or oppose Congress taking each of the following actions in regards to the war in Iraq? How about – [RANDOM ORDER]?

A. Putting a cap or limit on the number of U.S. troops serving in Iraq at any one time

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
2007 Feb 9-11	57%	40	2

B. Denying the funding needed to send any additional U.S. troops to Iraq

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
2007 Feb 9-11	40%	58	2

C. Setting a time-table for withdrawing all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of next year

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
2007 Feb 9-11	63%	35	2

How much will your representative's position on the war in Iraq affect your vote in the next Congressional elections? Will it be a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in your vote?

	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	No answer
2007 Feb 9-11	42%	28	29	2

As you may know, so far, attempts to hold a debate on the Iraq war in the Senate have not been successful. How much does this bother you – a great deal, a fair amount, not much, or not at all?

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not much	Not at all	No opinion
2007 Feb 9-11	35%	28	20	16	1

Do you favor or oppose the U.S. war with Iraq?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
2007 Jan 15-18	36	61	3
2006 Feb 9-12 ^	40	56	4
2005 Jun 16-19	39	59	2

Do you think George W. Bush does – or does not – have a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq?

	Yes, does	No, does not	No opinion
	%	%	%
2007 Jan 12-14	29	69	2
2007 Jan 5-7	25	72	3

As you may know, the Democrats in Congress are considering passing a resolution to express their opposition to President Bush's plan to send more U.S. troops to Iraq. This resolution, by itself, would not affect Bush's policy, but the Democrats are hoping it will put pressure on him to change his policy. Do you favor or oppose the Democrats in Congress taking this action?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
2007 Jan 12-14	61%	37	2

How much should U.S. government decisions on Iraq be influenced by what a majority of the American public wants – a great deal, a moderate amount, not much, or not at all?

	Great deal	Moderate amount	Not much	Not at all	No opinion
2007 Jan 5-7	36%	38	14	11	1

Just your best guess, do you think the war in Iraq has gone – [ROTATED: much better than the Bush administration expected, a little better, about as well as it expected, a little worse, (or) much worse than the Bush administration expected]?

	Much better	A little better	As well as expected	A little worse	Much worse	No opinion
2007 Jan 5-7	1%	3	13	25	56	1

All in all, do you think it was worth going to war in Iraq, or not?

	Worth going to war	Not worth going to war	No opinion
	%	%	%
2006 Dec 8-10 ^	37	62	1
2006 Mar 10-12 ^	37	60	3
2006 Jan 6-8	46	52	3

Who do you think is currently winning the war in Iraq -- the U.S. and its allies, the insurgents in Iraq, or neither side?

	U.S. and its allies	Insurgents in Iraq	Neither side	No opinion
	%	%	%	%
2006 Dec 8-10 ^	16	17	64	3
2006 Oct 20-22 ^	19	21	58	1

How much longer do you think the U.S. should have a significant number of troops in Iraq – less than six months, six months to a year, one to two years, or longer than two years?

	Less than six months	Six months to a year	One to two years	Longer than two years	Withdraw all now (vol.)	No opinion
2006 Dec 8-10	30%	25	25	14	2	3

Withdraw most U.S. combat troops from Iraq by March 2008, leaving only a limited number to help train and advise the Iraqis

2006 Dec 8-10	74	22	4
---------------	----	----	---

Do you think the war with Iraq has made the U.S. safer -- or less safe -- from terrorism?

	Safer	Less safe	No change (vol.)	No opinion
	%	%	%	%
2006 Oct 20-22	37	52	9	2
2006 Sep 15-17	41	48	8	3

Do you think Congress – [ROTATED: is doing too much to oversee U.S. policy in the war in Iraq, is doing the right amount, or do you think Congress is not doing enough to oversee U.S. policy in the war in Iraq]?

	Too much	Right amount	Not enough	No opinion
2006 Sep 15-17	14%	22	56	7

"Please Do NOT Support the Escalation of the war in Iraq. BRING THE TROOPS HOME!"

IF YOU AGREE WITH THE STATED REQUEST ABOVE, PLEASE SIGN BELOW
AND YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO SENATORS DORGAN
AND CONRAD AND GOVERNOR HOEVEN. THANK YOU!

SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PRINTED NAME
1 Nila Hornstein	315 14th Ave SE #6 D.L.	NIILA HORNSTEIN
2 Maryt Kuntz	125 1/2 ST W Crary, ND 58327	MARYT KUNTZ
3 Marge Miller	1401 10th Ave SE 58301	MARGE MILLER
4 Ann Hunt	400 14th Ave NE Apt. 15	ANN HUNT
5 Geraldine Schall	221 Thompson #106, D.L.	GERALDINE SCHALL
6 Lisa Vilandre	500 14th Ave NE Devils Lake, N.D.	LISA VILANDRE
7 Betty Bachmeier	716 6th Ave NE Devils Lake ND	BETTY BACHMEIER
8 George F. Zenke Jr.	6364 Hwy 20 Wabesa ND	GEORGE F. ZENKE, JR.
9 Peter Blomquist	PO Box 67 Devils Lake ND 58301	PETER BLOMQUIST
10 Carole Jenner	1010 5th St. SE #50 Devils Lake, ND 58301	CAROLE JENNER
11 Helen Kuntz	9084th St NE Devils Lake, ND 58301	HELEN KUNTZ
12 Jay Hantel	200 Fair Ave Devils Lake, ND 58301	JAY HANTEL
13 Alta Blomquist	503 8th St. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 58301	ALTA BLOMQUIST
14 Joseph J. Baum	5854 106 Ave NE BROCKET ND 58301	JOSEPH J. BAUM
15 Beverly A. Honkola	5854 106th Ave NE Brocket ND 58301	BEVERLY A. HONKOLA

This petition is being circulated by the North Dakota Peace Coalition and friends. For more information, please visit www.ndpeace.org. Thank you for being a voice for peace!

Sample of numerous sheets turned

TESTIMONY
SCR 4022
Congressional Hearing

Chairman Haas and Members of the Committee, for the record My name is Cameron White. I am a Marine and served as a member of Alpha Company, 1st Tank Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Reinforced, 1st Marine Division. I served **two** combat tours in Iraq. My first tour was during the initial invasion of Iraq as part of an infantry support element during Operation Iraqi Freedom One, and later as part of the **Post-**"Mission Accomplished" group to transport vehicles and Marines from Doha Port in Kuwait to Camp Fallujah , Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom Two.

As a former active duty Marine, and a member of the Inactive Ready Reserve, it is of the **utmost** importance to me to **Support Our Troops** in the **best** way possible and to call an **end** to combat operations in Iraq and seek a **peaceful** alternative to the continuing violence in the Middle East. This **can not** come in the form of the **watered-down** amended resolution that recently passed in the North Dakota Senate, because those changes are a ruse that only leave room to **continue** to put our troops in the midst of a violent conflict. Violence which we know full well is a **civil war**. A situation that has Americans caught in the cross-fire as an unfortunate result of a power vacuum that **we** created by destabilizing the region. Americans both home and abroad are suffering the **real** consequences of this song and dance, and while we negotiate here more Americans are coming home in coffins. These are our sons and daughters, our husbands and wives and our fellow Americans. Our military service members are completing multiple

deployments in Iraq. It is **not** uncommon to serve three or more combat tours in a four year enlistment. How many deployments must our troops complete? How many times will we ask them to risk their lives to continue an **unnecessary** war? Our troops deserve **real accountability** from their representatives. For the American troops the reality of this war is that it does **not** end or stay in Iraq. As veterans, we bring this war home with us, and it changes our lives forever, and **forever**, is a very long time. This war survives within us, and **we** re-live it everyday in different ways. For some, that comes in the form of **PTSD**, and for others it is due to the physical injuries and disabilities experienced through things such as loss of limbs, vision or hearing. **Over 23,000** members of our armed forces have been wounded in Iraq, and many more in Afghanistan. **These** are the ones that have survived the initial combat on the ground only to carry with them the effects of war into their everyday lives.

We **know** our troops are not fighting a war to liberate a country, they are not looking for weapons of mass destruction and they are not fighting a war on terror. That is a fallacy. Terrorism is a tactic, **not** a tangible enemy. There is no President or General of Terrorism that will come to the table and negotiate a truce, and therefore there is no foreseeable end to this war, and no clear victory to establish. This creates an ongoing war machine that perpetually profits the Defense Industry at the cost of thousands of American and foreign lives. So our troops fight, not a war against the Iraqis or a war on terror, but instead they are fighting for survival, fighting to go home and fighting for each other. They fight for the soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen next to them. They fight so

that they can all go home, and preferably, in one piece. **That** is why they fight, and that is **no** reason to put our troops in harms way. We **can not** tell our servicemen and women that we **"Support Our Troops"** and then send them off to risk their lives, multiple times, for reasons that we can not **HONESTLY** justify. That is a crime. Not only do we ask our troops to serve this country, but we neglect them after they have done so.

Coinciding with the Invasion of Iraq, the House of Representatives voted on the 2004 budget which cut funding for veteran's health care and benefit programs by nearly \$25 billion over the next ten years. This came just a day after Congress passed a resolution to "Support Our Troops." Ask yourself this question: "How exactly did that vote support our troops? Does leaving our current and future veterans without access to health care and compensation qualify as supporting them?" How can a person support sending Americans to fight a war and not support them when they return? That is a disgrace and it is shameful!

Today we are told that we must "Support Our Troops." "Wear a yellow ribbon, wave our flags, support the Bush Administration's War on Terror and War in Iraq. Stay the course." Questioning the war or ceasing to fund it is equated with deserting our troops or treason. And yet how are the warmongers supporting our troops? By eliminating their healthcare and slashing their pensions? We **can** support the warrior without supporting the war.

Initiatives to raise Veterans benefits have constantly been defeated by this administration and the GOP budget resolutions have contained reconciliation orders

requiring the VA to cut benefits **or to tax veterans** by increasing their fees. For fiscal year 2006, the VA Committee was to identify \$155 million in benefits cuts or increased fees; and \$798 million over the next five years. This administration has consistently cut Veterans benefits while appropriating more and more money for war making, to the tune of over \$300 billion and counting. In 2005, two years into the war, the House Republicans voted to **reject** increased funds for veterans' health care, and they voted to actually **cut** veterans benefits in their budget resolution.

The amount available for veterans' medical programs, including construction, and benefits administration is \$127 million **below** the amount the Congressional Budget Office estimates would be necessary to **maintain** the level of services that existed in fiscal year 2005. Over five years, the Republican budget resolution cuts almost \$16 billion from these discretionary programs. These type of budget resolutions will decrease critical services and inflict **real** pain upon service members, veterans and military families during a time of war, and Congress should be ashamed."

* According to the Veteran's Administration, 28 million veterans are currently using VA benefits. Another 70 million Americans are potential candidates for such programs. That amounts to a quarter of the U.S. population. With the budget shrinking, staff will be let go, and access to healthcare will become more and more difficult. This could mean the loss of over 19,000 nurses. Without those nurses, veterans could lose over 6.6 million outpatient visits. Approximately one out of every two veterans could lose their **ONLY** source of medical care. That is, if they even realize help is available to them. In 2003 the

Bush Administration ordered the VA medical centers to **stop** publicizing available benefits to veterans seeking assistance.

X Bush Administration funding cuts will also prevent veterans from receiving their disability pensions. Nearly a third of Gulf War veterans (over 200,000 veterans) have submitted claims to the VA for disability. The backlog of unprocessed claims has reached the astronomical count of nearly 500,000. There are also currently 500,000 Compensation and Pension cases still pending.

O And let us not forget that **forty percent** of Vietnam Veterans are homeless. They went from serving their country in a time of war to living on its streets in poverty. How many current veterans will return home, only to find themselves in the same situation? Because this administration does **NOT** support its troops!

The United States constituents have spoken up by voting for new policy makers and asking for a shift in our political mind set and a new direction in Iraq. Some of our Senators, Congressman and Representatives have **forgotten** who they work for. They still believe that they work for corporations, lobbyists, and the almighty dollar. Our representatives need to step up and do their jobs. Implement these changes on our behalf - for the troops and the citizens of this great nation. A nation that is suffering. This is a pivotal moment, and the eyes of the world are watching, and waiting for us to correct our moral compass, hold people accountable and return this country to its core principals. As Dorothy Thompson said, "It is not the fact of liberty but the way in which liberty is exercised that ultimately determines whether liberty itself survives." We must find an

alternative to the troop surge, work on a **REAL** exit strategy, save the lives that we can while preventing more young men and women from becoming casualties of this war, either on the battlefield or here at home.

Bring Them Home

Brought to You By

The American People

Chairman Haas and Members of the Committee, for the record I'm KayCee Huus, allow me to express my thanks for allowing me to speak to you today, in this beautiful capitol. I love America. My father, and his, both served in the Air Force, and I know and appreciate what an honor and duty it is to serve our country, to preserve our freedoms, one of those being free speech. I am here today to present some facts regarding the latest data concerning what Americans express as far as their feelings toward the Iraqi war.

If you would please, review the handouts concerning the latest poll data from Gallup. As you can see from page 4 data, as of February 2007, 6 out of 10 Americans oppose a significant increase in the number of troops being sent to Iraq to stabilize the position there. On page 6, 6 out of 10 oppose the war with Iraq. 6 out of 10 also endorse exactly what we are attempting to do here today, namely, passing a resolution to express their opposition to President Bush's plan to send more US troops to Iraq. On page 8, 7 out of 10 want a withdrawal of all troops, excepting training and advising staff by March 2008.

Closer to home, North Dakotans oppose an increase in troops to Iraq, as well. From The Forum, data reported on Feb 20, 2007, 57% oppose the increase. This information is included in your handouts, as well.

Perhaps of more importance to your futures, however, is how this may impact the upcoming elections. Also, from the Gallup Poll data, page 2, this will be an important issue for Americans, as far as their choice of legislators goes.

The Bottom Line The war is an extremely high-priority issue for Americans and is likely to be one of the top issues in this year's elections.

How much will your representative's position on the war in Iraq affect your vote in the next Congressional elections? Will it be a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in your vote?

	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	No answer
2007 Feb 9-11	42%	28	29	2
As our voice to Washington, we ask, most humbly, that you represent what this data bears out; that the majority of Americans, and North Dakotans want the troops to come home, and oppose an increase in the number of troops being sent.				
Thank you for your time, and I now stand ready for your questions.				

TESTIMONY for SCR4022,

22 Mar 2007

Herbert J. Wilson, MD

Honorable C.B. Hass Chairman,

Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Dear Representatives,

For the Record, I am Herbert J. Wilson, MD, 43 years in New Town, as a Family Physician, - now retired to Bismarck. However, for the testifying role this morning, I prefer to come to you as Air Force T/Sgt Herb Wilson, Forty-fourth Bombardment Group (Heavy) I am just awakening from a long sleep, as once did Rip Van Winkle. What I see rather horrifies me. What happened to that USA that my buddies and I fought for? May I beg your indulgence as I give a service man's testimony in support of the original draft of SCR 4022? You see, it took a good deal of soul searching, for the idea of withdrawing, of admitting defeat, to come from such a gun ho veteran, as I characterize myself today..

May I address a word of admiration to those currently serving in the armed forces? I relate to them closer than to you legislators. But the service people of today are showing more dedication to duty and more unquestioning loyalty to a cause (albeit flimsy) than we in 1944 could have ever done.. In our day it was a sacrifice for a cause that was quite understandable. Speaking as a GI of WWII, before you in my discharge uniform, I would like very much to say I joined as a volunteer as you service people do today. In 1942 it did not work that way. My draft number came up in a drawing (as indeed there well might be a draft next year if this conflict continues). Later, however, while overseas, I volunteered for combat and thus became aware of those hidden enticements to put one's life on the line. It was like this: You never thought it was going to happen to you. You had a job to do. Why not get this thing over with. Your people back home were rooting for you as though you were in a football game. You were joining an elect group. Your flight crew would exhibit a camaraderie that would keep you going. You felt in your heart of hearts that you were doing the right thing for God and Country.

So today, as I wake up still a flight sergeant, after 62 years of slumbering, I rub my eyes for a better look at what the modern GI is fighting for—and I see hardly anything genuine beyond this goad of patriotism- this devotion for a cause, even though poorly articulated. But it is a cause kept going by the camaraderie and the victory illusion. as it was for me long ago. I perceive the Iraq war tearing the country apart. I cannot see an end to the mess. No, not a clear cut end as we could in 1945. Next year it will be conscription, and more troops. What is the US into?- Is it a civil war between two religious factions? Is it an oil war?

I truly am speaking for my lost buddies of the 1940s when I ask that everything possible be done to turn the escalation around and pursue a negotiated peace, decidedly with the aide of other nations; with the aid of the UN- earth's family of nations. When I came home in 1945 we were looking to the United Nations to put an end to the world's strife- an end to the brutal wars that had characterized the first half of the 20th century.

Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle went to sleep for 20 years. On awakening he saw a lot of change- most for the better. After my sleep now, do I see my country better? How long must I sleep again to find an America returned to its status of world respect and leadership?

Please vote YES on SCR 4022, a bill designed to bring the present debacle to an earlier end.

Testimony on SCR 4022
March 22, 2007
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Don Morrison, NDPeople.Org

Chairman Haas and members of the committee, by name is Don Morrison and I am the Executive Director of NDPeople.Org, a statewide advocacy group.

The case has been made that the American people and most North Dakotans have major concerns about the war in Iraq that have led most of us to oppose sending 21,500 additional U.S. troops. This resolution is a respectful and necessary statement from North Dakotans.

We are not here today to debate whether or not we can talk about our nation's policy in Iraq. It is obviously the duty and responsibility of a person who lives in a democracy to know about and to discuss such a critical issue. Certainly, no reasonable person would expect Americans to follow blindly just because those with power say so.

This morning, others have made the case with overwhelming evidence that a different policy is needed in Iraq. We have come to this conclusion, because of what our nation's troops – particularly our family and friends – are telling us privately. We probably should have had this discussion a long time ago. It is correct and proper that we do this.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."

Benjamin Franklin warned that those who would "give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty nor security." Our country and our troops will be stronger for what we do today and passage of this resolution – for positive change in US policy – will be part of that strengthening of American democracy.

So, I want to thank you Mr. Chairman and members of this committee for having this discussion in the North Dakota House of Representatives. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this morning on the impact and cost that the continuation and escalation of the Iraq War has on the states and taxpayers.

I found a variety of estimates of the cost of the War in Iraq. They range from \$456 billion to \$2 trillion. Of course the studies are measuring different things, but, one thing is obvious: continuing to increase the cost of this war means funds are not available for deficit reduction, health care, education, safety, transportation and other important needs of North Dakotans and Americans. Certainly we know that Iraq War funding continues to increase the deficit. The cost which is compounded with interest will eventually have to be paid by American taxpayers.

Scott Wallsten of the conservative American Enterprise Institute, in September 2005 put the cost of the war at \$500 billion with another \$500 billion possible with most of the total borne by the United States.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz puts the war cost at between \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion. That includes \$300 billion for future health care costs for wounded troops. Additional costs include an impact from added interest on the national debt and major capital investment to replace military equipment depleted or destroyed by the war.

The war is essentially financed through deficit spending so interest payments over time could amount to another \$100 billion more. When the war began, the cost estimates were \$50 billion.

The \$456.1 billion estimate includes only incremental budgetary costs, not interest costs or future costs. The number is based on the legislation appropriating funding for the Iraq War and Congressional Research Service reports through last year. That is \$4,100 for every American household and \$1,500 for every American. This is \$11 million per hour and \$275 million per day. Adding another 21,500 American troops will cost American taxpayers another \$5.6 billion per year.

The cost for North Dakota taxpayers so far is estimated at \$456.0 million and with pending request from the President it could go to \$550.4 million. These numbers come from the National Priorities Project.

The President has asked for nearly \$100 billion in additional war spending for fiscal year 2007 and his proposed budget for fiscal year 2008 would cut \$13 billion in non-security discretionary spending. Billions more would be cut by restricting eligibility in mandatory programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. These cuts impact the work you do with federal funds in our state's budget.

The human costs of this war are important to us. We honor our friends and family who are serving in Iraq. They are doing their job. The fact that North Dakota ranks fourth among the states in terms of the number of casualties compared to our population is a matter of honor, but it also needs to be recognized by us and by legislators as to its impact on our state and people.

I would suggest that as you legislate you remember how much money the War in Iraq is costing. When you want to improve North Dakota schools, transportation, or the quality of life of people here, and don't have enough money, think about the spending on a war that is a civil war where we are no longer wanted by those we are told we are fighting for. It is fighting in a place that is not a threat to our freedom and – as a matter of fact – our fighting in Iraq is breeding more terrorists. Continuing to spend taxpayers' money for something that is not working is an issue that matters to you as state legislators. We need to keep our eye on what will make America strong.

We need to ask what it means to our security and safety here in North Dakota when so many of our National Guard are serving overseas. We know that well-trained law enforcement officers in North Dakota are serving in Iraq. Obviously, that leaves holes in our state's law enforcement. In

addition, emergency services see the costs of the war – in dollar amounts – as federal aid has slowly decreased. Funding for police and fire departments has declined. Rural ambulance services – already struggling for funds – are dealing with reduced federal funds.

Students and families feel the impact of this mismanaged war as funding for education declines.

Farmers in North Dakota and around our country feel the costs of this war. The past summer's drought, disaster aid was denied and the reason given was that the national budget could not afford to provide disaster relief because of the escalating cost of the war in Iraq.

It is important to state that going to war is not decided on how much it will cost. However, in this war especially, going to war was a choice. We were not attacked by Iraq like we were in 1941 at Pearl Harbor. There was no eminent danger to the United States. Actually, the US attack on Iraq was a well-documented major shift in American global policy to a first strike policy. That was a choice. Staying in an Iraqi civil war or redeploying our troops is also a choice.

It is our responsibility to talk here in this room in a respectful, honest way about one of the most important issues facing our nation and our planet. This is one of the places we should have this discussion. I would urge you to be cautious of anyone who says it is not your job to listen and work with your constituents.

We ask that you recommend a DO PASS on SCR 4022 in a form that more closely matches what North Dakota people think about the war.

Chairman Haas and Members of the Committee: For the record,

I am Sister Yvonne Nelson, Director of the Peace Studies Forums, a ministry of the Sisters of the Presentation in Fargo. Our mission is to raise awareness of the need for peace and to offer opportunities to grow in the promotion of peace. We believe in the possibility of transcending a culture of violence with a culture of peace and hope.

At this time when 35 wars are being waged, when in Iraq alone, 3,200+ American soldiers have died, when 655,000 Iraqis, including both soldiers and noncombatants, especially women and children, have been killed, when 532 billion dollars have been spent in destruction rather than in creative living, when we have 25,000 nuclear weapons, it is imperative that all of us search for alternatives to armed violence, to search for ways of peacemaking.

We all long for peace. But peace is not just the absence of war, repudiation of violence. Peace is a positive action, a power, which by its very nature, empowers others to be peaceful, to practice justice, to identify with the suffering, and to assume ethical responsibility. It acknowledges our common humanity. It models a way of acting and living, not only with those across the ocean, but also with those across the street. My faith teaches that the love of country cannot be higher than the love of neighbor.

The ND Peace Resolution is this kind of action, a desire for an alternative to the destruction and dissolution of war and violence. It begins a dialogue among those with fundamental differences, a dialogue which is not just for conversation nor conversion, but a search for the truth about what is right. Peace building like cathedral building is a long process. For any body of people, such as the ND Legislature, to join their voices with countless others to bring about peace between and within other countries shows imagination, commitment and courage. It provides a vision that enables us to see not what is, but what ought to be. I am disappointed that the original resolution was amended; I think that was a stronger statement. Still, the one you are considering is a step in the right direction, a light of hope shining in the darkness. Einstein once said: There is nothing so great as an idea whose time has come. And the time has come to pass this peace resolution.

Chairman Haas and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Alexander, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck. I stand before you today because I support our troops, I support their families, and I support peace in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a pastor, I have seen the effects of war upon my congregation. Servicemen and women, as well as their loved ones, are to be honored and praised for their sacrifices. They have indeed been many. Each day, I pray for our troops -- for their health, wellbeing, safety. They have served well, they have shown much courage, and their job is done. I can't think of a better way to thank our troops than to reunite them with their families and friends. Let's say, "Thank you. We honor you. It is time to come home."

When I think of home, my thoughts travel to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. Each day, I pray for them, too. They are not nameless, faceless "enemies." They are not "collateral damage." They are people, like us. They struggle, as our troops struggle, in times of conflict and war. Like us, these people long for a better world for their children. My faith teaches me that we are to be like parents to all children of the world, including these children of war.

Our troops arrived in Iraq and Afghanistan with a sense of purpose and possibility, a hope that they would be of service. Their service is now complete. There is no greater victory than doing the right thing at the right time. Let us all be victorious in peace. Let us express true gratitude to the troops, true compassion for the Iraqi and Afghani people, and true participation in the democratic process. Please make a "Do Pass" recommendation on SCR 4022. Let us pursue peace. Let us, at last, bring our troops home.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

March 22, 2007

Testimony in Support of SCR 4022

My name is Kristi Loberg, 2461 Lilac Lane No. Fargo ND 58102. I testify in support of this resolution for moral & for many religions obligation. As a mother of 2 boys, age 6 & age 3, we as a family are trying to teach non-violence & peaceful resolution in any conflict, between them or with others. I have a hard time reconciling peace at home when we are not working for peace as a state or country. ~~Thank you~~

Kristi Loberg

SCR 4022, Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, March 22, 2007

Chairman Haas and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Tim Mathern. I am a Senator from Fargo and introduced SCR 4022. The resolution addresses the cause of peace in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This resolution recognizes our brave men and women in uniform and heartily supports our troops, their hard work, and self-sacrifices. Many have given their lives; countless others will suffer lifelong consequences. This resolution as introduced urged Congress and the President to pursue peace in Iraq and disengage American combat forces from Iraq. The Resolution was amended in the Senate to remove more specific provisions asking that the troops be withdrawn. The Senate also added reference to Afghanistan.

Many concerned and insightful people are here to testify to support the following points;

- 1) The American people favor return of the troops.
- 2) The best way to support the troops at this time is to bring them home.
- 3) Military experts advise redeployment from Iraq.
- 4) Continuation or escalation of the Iraq war would hurt states and taxpayers.
- 5) Continuation or escalation of the Iraq war would harm civilians, including children.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, while the war on terror may be ongoing, the focus of this resolution is our soldiers and the war in Iraq. This resolution does not address the issues of the past, for example should we or should we not have gotten into this war or the equally serious issue as to what is accomplished or not accomplished by our presence thus far in Iraq. This resolution is forward looking, it asks the President and Congress to make concerted efforts toward peace to save lives and resources.

This resolution supports a responsible transition process from Iraq. Our citizens have died in war, our citizens have been wounded in war, and our citizens pay for war. They have a right and duty to speak about this war.

I have a set of amendments for your consideration in hopes that following the testimony you might add them to make this resolution stronger and more directive about supporting our troops by bringing them home from Iraq. The amendments also add wording about providing adequate services for our veterans. As I have learned as a member of the Appropriations Committee, many will have special needs for the rest of their lives.

I look forward to the testimony of other citizens.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask for your Do Pass recommendation on SCR 4022. Thank you.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4022

Page 1, line 1, remove "continue to"

Page 1, line 2, remove "and Afghanistan"

Page 1, line 3, replace the first "and" with a comma and after "Afghanistan" insert ", and around the world"

Page 1, line 5, after the comma insert "the troops in Iraq have reached", after "efforts" insert "and it", and replace "to bring our troops back" with "that they be redeployed and brought back home"

Page 1, after line 10, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly commits to providing veterans with adequate health care, accessible mental health care, and comprehensive services to support reentry into civilian society; and"

Page 1, line 12, remove "continue to" and remove "and Afghanistan"

Page 1, line 14, after "Delegation" insert "and the President"

Renumber accordingly

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

My husband and I are the parents of Sgt. Thomas J. Sweet II. Our son lost his life in Iraq on Thanksgiving Day 2003. We would like to ask the committee to support the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution #4022.

Our son was deployed from Ft. Riley, Kansas on September 8, 2003. Their mission in Iraq, as they understood it, was three fold:

1. Find Saddam Hussein,
2. Search out, secure, and destroy weapons of mass destruction,
3. And their mission at the end was to be a peace keeping mission to build schools for the children of Iraq.

In our son's first letter home he wrote, "The first day our convoy crossed over into Iraq, I really had to think to myself, couldn't there have been a better way of getting rid of Saddam Hussein than bombing the hell out of this country. As we have passed through towns and by the people on the roads we have seen bombed out buildings, wreckage of vehicles from the first Gulf War, still next to the road, and you then you have to look at the faces of the people and it is heart wrenching." This written by a 22 year-old young man who wouldn't let any of us in his family kill a spider, he would make us scoop it up, and let it go outside.

Saddam is dead, there are no weapons of mass destruction and our son was never a part of a peace keeping mission.

We have been told the US troops cannot leave Iraq now because that would mean that those who have lost their lives would have lost them in vain....

I ask you; does that mean, for Spc. Jon Fetting's death on July 22, 2003 not to be in vain that Pfc. Sheldon Hawk Eagle had to die on November 15, 2003, and for his death not to have been in vain our son had to lose his life on November 27th, 2003, and for his death not to have been in vain Sgt. Keith Smette had to lose his life on January 24, 2004, and for his death not to have been lost in vain, Staff Sgt. Ken Hendrickson had to lose his life on January 24, 2004 and for his death not to have been in vain, Spc. Philip Brown had to die on May 8, 2004, and for his death not to be in vain Staff Sgt. Lance Koenig had to lose his life on September 22, 2004, and for his death not to have been in vain, Pfc. Anthony Monroe had to die on October 11, 2004, and for his death not to be in vain, Spc. Cody Wentz had to die on November 4, 2004, and for his death not to be in vain, Spc. Dennis Ferderer Jr, had to lose his life on November 2, 2005, and for his death not to be in vain, Spc. Michael Hermanson had to die on May 24, 2006, and for his death not to have been in vain, Spc. Jeremiah Santos had to lose his life on June 15, 2006, and for his life not to have been in vain, Pfc. Paul Beyer had to die on June 23, 2006.

Our son was casualty #432. Had anyone asked us on November 27th 2003, a day on which our son was the only casualty, we would have said, "Not one more soldier has to die to justify our son's death. His death will never be in vain."

As a legislative body, these 14 North Dakota soldiers lost their lives on your watch. Our family would gratefully repay you as a body, the \$2,500 you sent us on behalf of the "Grateful State of North Dakota", after our sons death, if it meant that not one more North Dakota soldier would have to lose his/her life so that the 14 soldiers before him did not die in vain.

As a Gold Star Family, we know the true cost of war. This resolution will not cost you a penny

My husband and I respectfully ask that you support the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution # 4022.

Tom & Liz Sweet
706 North 3rd Street
Bismarck, North Dakota

March 22, 2007

Dear Chairman Haas and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution N. 4022. We are at a critical juncture in the conduct of the war in Iraq, and it is time for reason to prevail. I'd like to make several key points as to why North Dakota should send this message to Washington.

First, the war itself was an ill-conceived response to terrorism. Terrorism is not a military target, it is an ideology, and must be treated accordingly. Most thoughtful academic and diplomatic analyses point to the fact that the use of force has only served to widen the base of terrorism, to alienate our allies, and to squander the tremendous outpouring of support, from around the world, which America received after the attacks of 9/11.

Secondly, with continued investigation, it is clear that the American public and the Congress were manipulated into this war. The public has now clearly seen the facts, and poll after poll after poll indicates substantial loss of public confidence in this Administration's conduct of the war, as well as loss of support by leaders in both political parties.

Lives lost, troops maimed, post-traumatic stress disorder; need anyone say more?

Massive financial loss of tax resources, billions of it wasted and unaccounted for which could have been wisely put to good use. For North Dakotans, this amounts to over five hundred and fifty million tax dollars. There is a clear and dramatic correlation of the rise in military spending and cuts in domestic spending.

Here at the University of North Dakota (following the Centennial initiative of our past President Thomas Clifford), we are attempting to build an infrastructure for a culture of peace. Following an emerging model that changes the emphasis on 'national security' to one focused on 'human security,' we're educating students for active roles in conflict management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, an honor to our "Peace Garden State".

Please give those students, and the citizens of our state, reason to believe that their elected officials can see a future in which reason and common sense prevail, and in which we can use our resources, both financial and human, to serve the greatest possible good.

Sincerely,

Janet Kelly Moen, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology/Peace Studies
University of North Dakota
701-777-4414
janet.moen@und.edu

Loving the Soldier

I am Paul Dyer. I served 13 years in the Army. I have killed with my hands, over 86 people. I served in the Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia, Panama, Haiti, Israel, Afghanistan, Uganda. I was an instructor at the School of the Americas.

Four thousand soldiers, since 2004, have shot themselves. My concern is PTSD. There is no cure. The cure is really understanding it can never be labeled a disease; it is woven so deep in the fabric of your being; your cognitive ability is steeped in stress and trauma; it causes night tremors, sleep disorders, inability to concentrate, troubles in the relational part; you view your life as worthless because of the lives you have taken.

I suffer from PTSD.

Where do these soldiers go? Who helps these soldiers when they're home?

They don't know the problem they have until they're putting a gun in their mouth.

My personal story -- I was a trained combat killer, on black ops. Our mission was to kill quietly, silently, quickly. Common soldiers are not trained to be killers. Because of close combat, they are actually seeing the victims, which is different from other wars.

We need a North Dakota hotline for soldiers with PTSD, where they can call 24-hours a day -- a hotline just for them, or they won't call. They won't call a military line, either. It could be the "Loving Soldier Hotline."

You start to recluse yourself; you don't talk about things with people who've never been in combat. They don't understand.

This is what the soldier needs: "We support and love our soldiers. We will never deny or defame what they have given. We want them to understand that they have a home in our hearts, and we want them to come home as soon as possible."

We need a re-education and re-orientation process, about re-adaptating in to society without guns. That child looks just like the child I saw whose face was split in two. You associate the faces you see with the faces you've seen that have been killed. Buildings. Smells. Traffic doesn't sound like traffic anymore -- when you hear horns going off, you think it's a siren.

We need a re-orientation of the mind. Our experience of combat is woven into all our senses, embedded into our associations. A 6-week program is not going to do it. "If you need any help, give us a call." -- That's just not going to do it.

An end -- there is no end. The practice is a continuous consciousness of defining your senses. I never take things on a quick defining moment. Everything is a process. You can't stop the quick initial reaction. But then I pause. There's continuous constant re-evaluation. You take in where you are, what things are supposed to be in that setting at that time. I see that normalcy in the

world. When I walk by a row of pictures, I can tell you which one's uneven – I'm trained that way. Now I tell myself, "That's OK. I don't have to be alarmed by an uneven picture."

To really support veterans, we are in for the long haul. We can look at the rise of alcoholism or DUIs – how many of those are soldiers? Has anybody ever asked? The rise of domestic abuse – how many of those were combat soldiers? Reckless endangerment, someone crashes into a tree – was that a soldier? Did they commit suicide?

I personally...I almost committed suicide. I call it a rebirthing for me. Because that was as low as you could possibly get.

Our society usually puts up a stop sign after there's been accidents. If we wait to put up a stop sign on this war, our actions will be a form of self-suicide. And that is what we don't want.

Chairman Haas and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My wife and I have 52 years of combined military service and are officers retired from the North Dakota Air National Guard. I served as a Navy Hospital Corpsman during Viet Nam and cared for war casualties in medical facilities and in combat with the Marines. I also crewed fighter aircraft for 20 years. My wife is a veteran who was mobilized as a Chief Nurse during the first Gulf War.

Grave consequences dictate that a nation should not undertake elective offensive actions, but only go to war as a last resort when all other options have failed. It is our belief that the Iraq war is a tragic blunder that was ill conceived, falsely justified, and capriciously entered by the Bush administration and should therefore be ended and our troops withdrawn as soon as possible. If you cannot support withdrawal from Iraq, then think about which of your own family members you would like to see running this gauntlet for more than a year at a time - if they survived.

Those of us who have served in a war zone or cared for casualties know the true consequences of hostile actions, intended and otherwise, for both civilians and military participants. Many will be scarred for life and it is very important that we be prepared to meet the long term needs of those wounded mentally as well as the physically injured.

The original language of SCR 4022, which should be reinstated, directed that a message be sent to our congressional delegation and the President supporting prompt disengagement of our military forces from the conflict in Iraq. Some argue that such action would have a demoralizing effect on those who serve. Trust us - they are smarter than that.

It is past the time for us to cut our losses in lives and equipment and begin to restore the capabilities of our military services to meet the true defense needs of our nation.

We ask that you give SCR 4022 a Do Pass recommendation as the legislation was originally intended.

Sincerely,
Ron & Nancy Saeger
Fargo, ND

Chair Haas and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Van Fossan, and I stand before you on behalf of the 712 members and volunteers of the North Dakota Peace Coalition. I am also one of more than 366,000 North Dakotans who are deeply distressed by US policy in Iraq.¹

Just months before he died, I asked my grandfather, a veteran and peacemaker, "What makes you want peace?"

"What makes me want peace?" he said. "I don't like to kill anybody."

I asked him to tell me more. "Like back when I was in service," he said. "How do you know the bullet is going to hit the one that you want? Which you didn't want to hit them in the first place."

He reminds me of my friend, Paul Dyer, who served 13 years in the US Army and suffers from PTSD. "An end – there is no end," he says. "You can't stop the quick initial reaction. When I walk by a row of pictures, I can tell you which one's uneven – I'm trained that way. Now I tell myself, 'That's OK. I don't have to be alarmed by an uneven picture.'"

My colleague in the Peace Coalition, Ron Saeger is a retired officer from the North Dakota Air National Guard. "If you cannot support withdrawal from Iraq," he says, "then think about which of your own family members you would like to see running this gauntlet for more than a year at a time – if they survived." But what about troop morale? As a Viet Nam veteran, his response is this: "Some argue that disengaging our military forces from Iraq would have a demoralizing effect on those who serve. Trust me – they are smarter than that."

Many of you may know Liz Sweet. These are her words:

"My husband and I are the parents of Sgt. Thomas J. Sweet II. Our son lost his life in Iraq on Thanksgiving Day 2003. Our son was deployed from Ft. Riley, Kansas on September 8, 2003. Their mission, as they understood it, was threefold:

- 1) Find Saddam Hussein,
- 2) Search out, secure, and destroy weapons of mass destruction,
- 3) Their mission at the end was to be a peacekeeping mission to build schools for the children of Iraq.

"In our son's first letter home he wrote, 'The first day our convoy crossed over into Iraq, I really had to think to myself, couldn't there have been a better way of getting rid of Saddam Hussein than bombing the hell out of this country? As we have passed through towns and by the people on the roads we have seen bombed out buildings, wreckage from the first Gulf War, still next to the road, and then you have to look at the faces of the people and it is heart wrenching.' This written by a 22-year-old young man who wouldn't let any of us in his family kill a spider, he would make us scoop it up, and let it go outside.

"Saddam is dead, there are no weapons of mass destruction, and our son was never part of a peace keeping mission. We have been told the US troops cannot leave Iraq now because that

1 According to a February 2007 poll of North Dakotans conducted by the Fargo Forum.

would mean that those who have lost their lives would have lost them in vain.

"I ask you; does that mean, for Spc. Jon Fettig's (Dickinson) death on July 22, 2003 not to be in vain that Pfc. Sheldon Hawk Eagle, Grand Forks, had to die on November 15, 2003, and for his death not to have been in vain our son, Bismarck, had to lose his life on November 27, 2003, and for his death not to have been in vain Sgt. Keith Smette, Makoti, had to lose his life on January 24, 2004, and for his death not to have been in vain, Staff Sgt. Ken Hendrickson, Bismarck, had to lose his life on January 24, 2004, and for his death not to have been in vain, Spc. Philip Brown, Jamestown, had to die on May 8, 2004, and for his death not to be in vain, Sgt. Lance Holmes, Hettinger, had to lose his life on May 8, 2004, and for his death not to have been in vain, Staff Sgt. Lance Koenig, Fargo, had to lose his life on September 22, 2004, and for his death not to have been in vain, Pfc. Anthony Monroe, Bismarck, had to die on October 11, 2004, and for his death not to be in vain, Spc. Cody Wentz, Williston, had to die on November 4, 2004, and for his death not to be in vain, Spc. Dennis Ferderer Jr, New Salem, had to lose his life on November 2, 2005, and for his death not to be in vain, Spc. Michael Hermanson, Fargo, had to die on May 24, 2006, and for his death not to have been in vain, Cpl. Jeremiah Santos, Minot, had to lose his life on June 15, 2006, and for his death not to have been in vain, Pfc. Paul Beyer, Jamestown, had to die on June 23, 2006, and in order for his death not to be in vain, Cpl. Nathan Good Iron, Mandaree, had to die on November 23, 2006.

"Our son was casualty #432. Had anyone asked us on November 27, 2003, a day on which our son was the only casualty, we would have said, 'Not one more soldier has to die to justify our son's death. His death will never be in vain.'

"As a legislative body, these 15 North Dakota soldiers lost their lives on your watch. Our family would gratefully repay you as a body the \$2,500 you sent us on behalf of the 'Grateful State of North Dakota' after our son's death, if it meant that not one more North Dakota soldier would have to lose his or her life so that the 15 soldiers before him did not die in vain.

"As a gold star family, we know the true cost of war. This resolution will not cost you a penny.

"My husband and I respectfully ask that you support the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4022."

Those are the words of Liz Sweet. On behalf of her, her family, and the faces of those her son saw in Iraq, I urge you to make DO PASS recommendation on SCR 4022 and bring our troops home. As my grandfather said, "When I get up in the morning, I'd like to feel I'm going to make it to bed that night - without somebody dropping a bomb on me."

I would be honored to stand for any questions.

Chairman Haas and Members of the committee:

My name is Chuck Suchy and I live in Morton County, south of Mandan. I'm here to voice my support of SCR 4022. My wife Linda and I were not in favor of our country's entry into this war and have been continually horrified and deeply saddened by the tragic chain of events and the effect the war has had on our country.

I live in a neighborhood of salt-of-the-earth, common sense folks and am heartened by the growing number of them who are voicing their feelings concerning this war -- that it is senseless to spend our precious resources of money and especially our soldiers on such an ill-founded venture. I know many who felt from the beginning that the war was a mistake but were fearful that offering opposition to the war meant opposition to our troops and country.

Supporting our soldiers, in part, means to me as a citizen to be very considerate and cautious in deciding what we ask of them. I have sent money to an organization, Operation Helmet, which supplies soldiers with more effective helmet liners allowing more comfort and safety to the wearers. I now am grateful for the privilege of supporting those soldiers with words of hope that you will vote a do-pass on SCR 4022 and help bring them home.

Thank you.

Chuck Suchy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Suchy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Chuck Suchy".

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

RUSH: There's an interesting story today, or column. Well, it's a story. It's in the New York Sun. It's by Alicia Colon, and it's entitled, "Heroes and Cowards." But here's the interesting paragraph. "The total military dead in the Iraq war between 2003 and this month stands at about 3,133. This is tragic, as are all deaths due to war, and we are facing a cowardly enemy unlike any other in our past that hides behind innocent citizens. Each death is blazoned in the headlines of newspapers and Internet sites. What is never compared is the number of military deaths during the Clinton administration: 1,245 in 1993; 1,109 in 1994; 1,055 in 1995; 1,008 in 1996. That's 4,417 deaths in peacetime but, of course, who's counting?"

Now, you might wonder, well, she doesn't cite the source of these figures. But we found them. There's a Department of Defense pdf file on death rates that you can download. I went to download it and I got it and then subsequent attempts after that the site was either down or it was locked and loaded. The point here is, of course these 4,417 deaths between 1993 and 1996, those are deaths in peacetime, those are for the most part accidental deaths. And you've heard people say this, I just wanted to get this out there and on the record: more deaths in four years of the Clinton administration due to military accidents than deaths in Iraq. If you look at this pdf, you will find that in 1980, which was the last year of the Carter administration, there were far more military deaths in 1980 than in any year of the Bush administration. The death rate was also higher, and that's because of differences in the care given the training and standards and so forth. The point here is that we're fighting the Iraq war with lower casualties than casualties expected from training accidents during peacetime! .

I mention this just to show you how out of proportion and agenda oriented the death count in Iraq is. We've mentioned this before, as a matter of theory and prophecy. But here it is documented, and these numbers are available to anybody. Any journalist can go to the Department of Defense site and take a look and find these numbers. There is no interest on the part of any journalist to do so, because it would confound the agenda and the purpose of tallying up these deaths because these 3,133 deaths form the basis, do they not, of "We've got to get out of there! This is out of control, why, 3,133 battlefield deaths, whoa, this is horrible! We support the troops. We gotta get 'em out of harm's way in a pointless, unjust war," blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, when in fact this war is rather successful in terms of the number of deaths, especially when you compare it to the number of troops who have been deployed.

END TRANSCRIPT