

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 07-0275R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Young, Clarke, Harris, Kraft, Welch, Reisinger, Middleton,  
President Rawlings Blake, Councilmembers Holton, Mitchell, D'Adamo, Curran, Conaway  
Introduced and adopted: March 19, 2007

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Bring the Troops Home!**

1  
2 FOR the purpose of joining with city councils and state legislatures across the nation in calling  
3 upon the U.S. Congress to fulfill its Constitutional duty by enacting binding legislation to  
4 end this war; that we join others in expressing our opposition to the present “surge” strategy;  
5 that we call upon the U.S. Congress to limit funding for Iraq to money needed to safely  
6 withdraw the troops and to provide comprehensive health care and educational benefits to all  
7 soldiers who served in Iraq.

8 **WHEREAS**, The Iraq war has raged now for four years at the cost of 3,100 U.S. soldiers dead,  
9 71 of them from Maryland; over 20,000 have been wounded, many with terrible life-altering  
10 disabilities; an estimated 655,000 Iraqis have died and there is no end in sight; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The war has cost us \$378 billion in tax dollars and President George W. Bush is  
12 requesting supplemental appropriations of \$93 billion for this year and another \$145 billion for  
13 next year totaling more than half a trillion dollars to pay for an open-ended occupation; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The cost to Maryland taxpayers of this war estimated by the National Priorities  
15 Project is \$9 billion, enough to provide quality health care for our 800,000 people who lack  
16 medical insurance; and the cost to Baltimore is estimated at \$512.4 million, enough to build or  
17 renovate 100 public schools at \$5 million each; and

18 **WHEREAS**, In flagrant violation of U.S. and international law, the Bush-Cheney  
19 Administration launched a unilateral preemptive war against a nation that did not attack us, using  
20 a massive campaign of false propaganda that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and ties to al-  
21 Qaeda, claims now totally discredited; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Bush and the Republican right accuse opponents of the war of “not supporting  
23 the troops” yet they are inflicting needless death and injury on these young Americans by  
24 keeping them in harm’s way and not equipping them even with adequate body armor; and Bush-  
25 Cheney shamefully under-fund programs to assist wounded and traumatized soldiers who have  
26 served in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The only way to truly support the troops is to bring them home and provide full  
28 health and education benefits when they return; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The people of Maryland and the United States voted overwhelmingly last Nov. 7  
30 in favor of ending this war, and the U.S. Congress has just adopted a resolution opposing  
31 escalation; and

**EXPLANATION:** Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1       **WHEREAS**, Bush has ignored this peace mandate and continues to assert that “victory” is the  
2 only option and is escalating the war by sending an additional 48,000 combat and support troops,  
3 in flagrant disregard of the will of the people and the U.S. Congress; and

4       **WHEREAS**, Bush is now engaged in menacing maneuvers against Iran, threatening to spread  
5 this war into a regional conflagration.

6       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City  
7 Council of Baltimore joins with city councils and state legislatures across the nation in calling  
8 upon the U.S. Congress to fulfill its Constitutional duty by enacting binding legislation to end  
9 this war; that we join others in expressing our opposition to the present “surge” strategy; that we  
10 call upon the U.S. Congress to limit funding for Iraq to money needed to safely withdraw the  
11 troops and to provide comprehensive health care and educational benefits to all soldiers who  
12 served in Iraq.

13       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That funds be appropriated for the reconstruction of Iraq  
14 under Iraqi control and that tax funds earmarked for the Iraq war also be redirected to rebuild the  
15 social and physical infrastructure of our cities, towns, and rural communities here at home.

16       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to all members of  
17 Maryland’s delegation to Congress and the President of the United States.