

1 [Urging the United States Government to Reduce the Military Budget]

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3 **Resolution urging the United States government to reduce the military budget, end the**
4 **wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and redirect the savings for domestic needs.**

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6 WHEREAS, Our nation faces its most severe economic crisis since the Great
7 Depression; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 58 cents of every federal discretionary tax dollar in fiscal
9 year 2011 is spent to pay for past, present, and future military expenditures; and,

10 WHEREAS, Not including U.S. military forces presently serving in Iraq and
11 Afghanistan, our country maintains more than 255,000 troops stationed in 146 countries and a
12 network of more than 865 bases in 63 countries, which together cost more than \$372 billion
13 annually; and

14 WHEREAS, The Pentagon budget was \$297 billion when President Clinton left office
15 but for the 2011 fiscal year is over \$700 billion, more than double, and military spending by
16 other agencies such as the Veterans Administration, Department of Energy, the State
17 Department, and interest on the war debt raises the total to almost \$1 trillion annually; and

18 WHEREAS, The total cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to Americans is estimated
19 at \$4 trillion, and taxpayers in deficit-plagued California have paid almost \$145.8 billion in
20 federal taxes for war, and San Francisco taxpayers have paid approximately \$3.8 billion for
21 these wars since 2001; and

22 WHEREAS, Over 4,470 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq (474 from California), over
23 1,770 U.S. troops have been killed in Afghanistan, and over 45,100 U.S. troops have been
24 wounded in both conflicts according to the Department of Defense; and

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1 WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Afghan civilians have been killed in
2 these wars and the ongoing wars pose great and unnecessary harm to the people of Iraq,
3 Afghanistan and Pakistan; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco faces falling federal and state support, causing cuts to the
5 City's Adult Day Care Centers, Food Bank, City College, Public Schools, and Libraries, which
6 threatens San Francisco's public workers, youth, students, elderly, and other vulnerable
7 citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, The American Society of Civil Engineers' 2009 survey of U.S.
9 infrastructure (bridges, roads, sewage treatment, etc.) assigned poor grades to all categories:
10 from C-plus to D-minus; and

11 WHEREAS, The June 2011 U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution calling on
12 the President and Congress to end the wars and reallocate the funds to meet vital domestic
13 needs; and

14 WHEREAS, In July 2011, the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
15 in July 2011 unanimously passed a resolution urging Congress to pass HR780 to provide
16 funds for operations of the Armed Forces in Afghanistan only for purposes of providing for the
17 safe and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. Armed Forces from Afghanistan: now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors finds that the Federal
19 Government's current military budget diverts critical funding away from domestic needs and,
20 in particular, is detrimental to the well-being of the citizens, residents, and taxpayers of San
21 Francisco, and calls upon California's Congressional delegation to promote Federal legislative
22 action to reduce the military budget significantly; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon
24 California's Congressional delegation to promote Federal legislative action limiting any
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1 subsequent Iraq and Afghanistan war appropriations to funding the rapid, safe, withdrawal of
2 all U.S. troops, bases, and contractors from those countries; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports
4 Federal and California state legislative or executive action that would ensure adequate
5 funding for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans, particularly those who have returned home
6 physically or mentally wounded, to ensure they receive health care, housing, jobs, education
7 and other support services; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon
9 President Barack Obama and California's Congressional delegation to promote Federal
10 executive or legislative action redirecting savings from reducing military expenditures towards
11 domestic needs, creating jobs, and supporting non-military efforts by international
12 organizations to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack
14 Obama, the California Congressional delegation, the Governor of California, and the
15 California State Legislature.

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