

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 1503

(SENATE AUTHORS: WESENBERG, Bahr, Lieske, Mathews and Drazkowski)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/09/2023	761	Introduction and first reading Referred to State and Local Government and Veterans

1.1

A resolution

1.2

expressing the concern of the Minnesota Legislature regarding the deployment of

1.3

members of the Minnesota National Guard into combat as part of wars not declared

1.4

by Congress; urging the Congress and President of the United States to respect their

1.5

constitutional roles regarding the declaration of war.

1.6

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11, of the Constitution of the United States grants

1.7

Congress, and only Congress, the power to declare war; and

1.8

WHEREAS, since Congress last declared war during World War II, the American military

1.9

has repeatedly been deployed to fight in conflicts overseas, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands

1.10

of American military personnel in combat operations that occurred outside a formal declaration of

1.11

war; and

1.12

WHEREAS, Minnesotans have always proudly and bravely served our country in uniform,

1.13

and will continue to answer when called to serve by their nation; and

1.14

WHEREAS, due to the immense respect Minnesotans hold for those who fight for their

1.15

freedom, it is right that our state's political institutions do everything possible to honor and protect

1.16

those who serve, especially those who serve our state and nation as part of the Minnesota National

1.17

Guard, including by insisting that those who have volunteered to serve our state and nation are only

1.18

placed into combat overseas after the people's representatives in Congress vote to declare war, as

1.19

provided by the United States Constitution; NOW, THEREFORE,

1.20

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Minnesota urges the Congress of the

1.21

United States, as the elected representatives of the people, to immediately reassert their proper role

1.22

under the Constitution of the United States by insisting that the American military is not sent into

1.23

combat overseas without a vote by Congress to declare war.

1.24

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Minnesota urges the

1.25

President of the United States to respect the United States Constitution and America's service

2.1 members by only sending the American military to participate in combat overseas after the Congress
2.2 of the United States has declared war.

2.3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Minnesota requests the
2.4 President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Minnesota refrain from issuing
2.5 orders that would lead to the deployment of members of the Minnesota National Guard to overseas
2.6 combat operations unless such operations occur as part of a war that has been formally declared
2.7 by the Congress of the United States.

2.8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed
2.9 to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the
2.10 United States Secretary of Defense, the Governor of the State of Minnesota, the President and the
2.11 Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of
2.12 Representatives, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.