

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

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2003 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Benson, Bobo, Burns, and Jones**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Maryland's Opposition to the United States Entering into a War with Iraq**

3 FOR the purpose of opposing the United States entering into a war with Iraq; and
4 generally relating to the opposition of the United States entering into a war with
5 Iraq.

6 WHEREAS, The citizens of Maryland ask for peace and goodwill among nations
7 and for the well-being of all people; and

8 WHEREAS, A war with Iraq may result in thousands of civilians being killed
9 and thousands of American men and women in the United States armed forces being
10 brought home dead; and

11 WHEREAS, Prior to the commencement of any military action it should be clear
12 that the seven principles of a just war have been met: (1) a just war can only be waged
13 as a last resort; (2) a war is just only if it is waged by a legitimate authority; (3) a just
14 war can only be fought to redress a wrong suffered; (4) a war can only be just if it is
15 fought with a reasonable chance of success; (5) the ultimate goal of a just war is to
16 reestablish peace; (6) the violence used in the war must be proportional to the injury
17 suffered; and (7) the weapons used in war must discriminate between combatants and
18 noncombatants; and

19 WHEREAS, As many citizens of Maryland and the United States are torn
20 between war and peace, these individuals are praying for the President of the United
21 States to lead them with justice and peace; and

22 WHEREAS, The citizens of Maryland and the United States are a people of
23 promise and hope; and

24 WHEREAS, While it is undeniable that the citizens of Maryland and the United
25 States feel anguish and fear at the prospect of war and the inevitable loss of loved
26 ones, we give our unconditional support to United States' military personnel serving
27 at home and abroad in their tireless battle against global terrorism, and should our
28 military forces be sent to Iraq, we give our unyielding support to our young men and
29 women serving in our nation's military, even if we oppose the policy that sent them
30 there; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
2 General Assembly joins with numerous communities in at least 28 other states in this
3 nation, in opposing a war with the country of Iraq, prior to taking all available
4 measures to cooperate with the United Nations in removing all weapons of mass
5 destruction; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the United States government to
7 explore all diplomatic solutions and to work through the United Nations Security
8 Council and to reaffirm our nation's commitment to the rule of law in international
9 relations; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
11 Legislative Services to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
14 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
15 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
16 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersburger III, Benjamin L.
17 Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
18 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington,
19 D.C. 20515; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
21 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
22 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
23 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.