

Senate Joint Resolution No. 6—Committee on  
Legislative Operations and Elections

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Federal Government to address the issue of spouses of members of the military losing retirement benefits due to frequent relocations by creating a retirement plan that is funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

WHEREAS, Historically, the State of Nevada has honored the sacrifices that members of the military and their families have made to protect our freedoms by providing veterans and members of the military certain benefits and rehabilitative services; and

WHEREAS, Nevada state law currently requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to assist veterans and those persons presently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who are residents of the State of Nevada and their spouses, domestic partners, widows, widowers, children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives; and

WHEREAS, According to the RAND National Defense Research Institute, research has found that spouses of members of the military have lower earnings and employment than comparable persons who are married to civilians and that relocating because of military service is associated with lower spousal earnings; and

WHEREAS, Permanently relocating because of a change of duty station has been shown by the RAND National Defense Research Institute to reduce earnings of spouses of members of the military and may threaten the ability of such persons to support themselves financially in retirement; and

WHEREAS, A study by the RAND National Defense Research Institute suggests that programs designed to mitigate the adverse impacts on careers of spouses of members of the military associated with permanent relocation because of a change of duty station may have meaningful impacts on the financial well-being of families of members of the military by improving current earnings and the ability of members of the military and their spouses to support themselves financially in retirement; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense, through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, administers the military retirement system, which is a government-funded benefit system that includes monthly compensation for qualified retirees from the active duty and reserve forces of the military, disability



benefits for those deemed medically unfit to serve and a survivor annuity program for the eligible survivors of deceased retirees; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense currently offers several programs to assist military spouses advance their careers and educational goals, such as the Military Spouse Employment Partnership and My Career Advancement Accounts, mainly through the Office of Military Community and Family Policy of the Department; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense Appropriations Act appropriates funding to the United States Department of Defense for military activities; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense does not currently have a plan or program that provides retirement benefits to spouses of members of the military; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature express support for the creation of a retirement plan to resolve the issue of the loss of retirement benefits for spouses of members of the military due to frequent relocations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the Federal Government to create and implement a retirement plan that addresses the loss of retirement benefits for spouses of members of the military due to frequent relocations that is funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of the Department of Defense and the Governor of the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

