

CHAPTER 181**(HCR 81)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to fully support Future Vertical Lift, a vital modernization initiative of the Department of Defense and the United States Army.

WHEREAS, the United States of America is undertaking critical modernization efforts across all branches of the U.S. military as it faces a growing multi-faceted national security threat from challengers around the world; and

WHEREAS, our warfighters require vertical lift aircraft with greater reach, speed, agility, lethality, and survivability to compete in critical anti-access, anti-denial environments; and

WHEREAS, the Future Vertical Lift initiative involves a futuristic family of aircraft developed for the U. S. Department of Defense to meet emerging threats, and the U. S. Army modernization plan involves six mutually supporting priorities, which include Future Vertical Lift to enable the joint force to counter rapidly developing threats; and

WHEREAS, two U. S. Army Future Vertical Lift programs – Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft and Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft – seek to modernize the vertical lift fleet by developing the most modern, versatile, and lethal weapons systems to win on the modern battlefield; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's Fort Knox and Fort Campbell stand among the nation's most elite military installations and mission-critical bases with approximately 32,000 military personnel and over 7,000 civilian personnel assigned; and

WHEREAS, Fort Knox, with an overall Kentucky economic impact of \$2.6 billion in 2020, hosts the newly established V Corps, headquarters for oversight of the U.S. Army operational planning and mission command of rotational forces in Europe, as well as the national headquarters for Army Human Resources Command, Army Recruiting Command, First Army Division East, Army First Theater Sustainment Command, Army Reserve 84th Training Command, Army Reserve 100th Training Division (Leader Development), and the Adjutant General Corps; and

WHEREAS, Fort Campbell, which had an overall Kentucky economic impact of \$4.5 billion in 2020, hosts the acclaimed 101st Airborne Division and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, which is our nation's foremost expeditionary fighting command; and

WHEREAS, by 2030, Fort Campbell will become the first home of the Army's new Future Vertical Lift aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky National Guard fields approximately 8,000 personnel in state, national, and world-wide missions, and also operates Bluegrass Station, where the facility's largest employer, Lockheed Martin, supports contracts with the United States Special Operations Command which have an economic impact of over \$204 million annually and over 2,200 personnel are employed; and

WHEREAS, the Future Vertical Lift program presents opportunities for innovation and economic growth in Kentucky's aerospace and defense sectors for decades to come;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The General Assembly reaffirms the critical importance of the U. S. Army's Future Vertical Lift programs and the impact of these critical aviation platforms on the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the readiness of the United States Military.

➔Section 2. The Kentucky General Assembly requests the full support of the Kentucky Congressional delegation to ensure full funding for the Future Vertical Lift Program in the President's federal budget and subsequent authorization and appropriations legislation.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Kentucky's Congressional delegation and to the office of Representative Walker Thomas.

Signed by Governor April 5, 2021.

