

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 19

Sponsored by Representative NELSON (at the request of Oregon War Veterans Association)

To the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the future of our nation and the American way of life depends on this nation's success in defending against its enemies at home and abroad; and

Whereas the United States Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Coast Guard, the Reserves and the National Guard of each state have performed and continue to perform admirably and bravely in defense of this nation; and

Whereas there is no question that comfort items donated to our heroic troops overseas add a much needed touch of home for our troops; and

Whereas comfort items include peanuts, candy, applesauce, oatmeal packets, shampoo, batteries, music videos and cassettes, games and reading materials; and

Whereas countless organizations collect comfort items donated by a grateful nation and the cost of transporting the tons of donated items is prohibitive; and

Whereas although the United States Department of Defense transports privately donated humanitarian cargo to foreign countries using military transport at no cost to the donating organization, it does not transport comfort items to our troops; and

Whereas a grateful nation also cares for and bestows benefits upon its brave veterans to whom this nation owes its present prosperity and continued existence; and

Whereas veterans' benefits include education, health care, pensions and disability payments; and

Whereas George Washington, first President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, is reported to have said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation"; and

Whereas the provision of veterans' health care is exceedingly important to veterans and their families or survivors; and

Whereas the provision of payments to disabled veterans is among the most solemn responsibilities of the American people; and

Whereas federal spending on veterans' health care is discretionary rather than direct; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States of America to:

(1) Provide funds to transport comfort items on military transports and the United States Department of Defense to transport comfort items on military transports at no cost to the donating organization; and

(2) Change spending on veterans' health care from discretionary spending to direct spending funded by mandated appropriations; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House May 1, 2007

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 18, 2007

President of Senate