

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 12

Sponsored by Representatives BARTON, WHISNANT; Representatives BARKER, MATTHEWS,
MAURER, RILEY, Senators BOQUIST, DEVLIN, WALKER

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

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

Whereas there are 350,000 veterans in Oregon, of whom only 80,000 are enrolled with the Veterans Health Administration; and

Whereas this discrepancy leaves more than \$4 billion in potential benefits unclaimed; and

Whereas many veterans who are not enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration live in rural areas; and

Whereas the Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services Final Report stated that equity in access is an issue for veterans who live in rural areas; and

Whereas geographic distance creates barriers for veterans' access to adequate health care; now, therefore,

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

(1) The Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that:

(a) Adds a proportional differential to the formula-based health services to increase access for veterans who live in rural areas.

(b) Requires the Veterans Health Administration to work with national, regional and state leaders representing rural areas to establish a formula that increases access and decreases transportation costs for veterans seeking health care.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House April 27, 2009

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 20, 2009

President of Senate