

House Joint Memorial 12

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

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to enact legislation increasing veterans' access to health care.

JOINT MEMORIAL

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.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.