

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 21

Sponsored by Representatives ESQUIVEL, WHISNANT, BARKER, RILEY; Representatives BAILEY, BARTON, BENTZ, BOONE, BUCKLEY, CLEM, COWAN, C EDWARDS, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GILLIAM, HANNA, JENSON, KRIEGER, MAURER, RICHARDSON, SCHAUFLEER, G SMITH, SPRENGER, THATCHER, TOMEI, VANORMAN, WEIDNER, WITT, Senators 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 the future of our nation and the American way of life depends on this nation's success in defending itself against its enemies at home and abroad; and

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

Whereas a grateful nation 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 for fiscal year 2009, veterans can receive health care services through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs health care system only to the extent that congressional appropriations allow; and

Whereas the provision of veterans' health care is exceedingly important to veterans and their families and 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 mandatory and direct, as are many entitlement programs; now, therefore,

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

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to change the funding of veterans' health care from a discretionary entitlement to a permanent and direct entitlement.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States 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