

**Enrolled**  
**House Joint Memorial 3**

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski for Department of Veterans' Affairs)

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 Veterans Health Administration within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is charged with providing health care to all eligible veterans; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration has a program known as Fee Basis that pays for health care services provided outside the veterans health care system, including emergency care for eligible veterans; and

Whereas many Oregon veterans who are eligible for Veterans Health Administration health care live in rural and remote areas of this state and can access primary health care, but cannot access specialty and emergency health care for veterans; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration does not have full-service health care facilities in rural areas of Oregon to meet the health care needs of eligible veterans in these areas; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration's Fee Basis payment system is sufficiently complex to be considered as being inconsistently applied and as having eligibility restrictions that do not meet the needs of veterans living in rural and remote areas; 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:

(a) Increase funding and eligibility for Fee Basis payments for veterans living in rural and remote areas of Oregon who cannot access Veterans Health Administration facilities; and

(b) Review and simplify the Fee Basis statutes and regulations regarding payment eligibility for specialty and emergency health care for veterans due to complex statutes and regulations that are confusing to veterans.

(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 9, 2009

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Chief Clerk of House

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Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 20, 2009

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President of Senate