

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 5 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel
Nays: 0
Exc.: Witt
Prepared By: Jill Petty, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/22, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to make funding of veterans' health care permanent and direct entitlement.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Veterans' health care has been discretionary expense since 1921
- Oregon Legislature adopted memorials in last three sessions on this issue

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Veterans' health care is a discretionary expense in the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs budget. Funding for veterans' health care relies upon annual budget appropriations. Veterans' organizations want assurance their health care benefits will remain stable. House Joint Memorial 18 urges Congress to change the funding for veterans' health care benefits from a discretionary expense to an entitlement.