

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	6 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel, Witt
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jill Petty, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to mandate payment for treatment of military sexual trauma (MST) provided outside veterans' facilities. Urges Congress to require at least one experienced MST counselor at each Veterans' Center.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Twenty two percent of women veterans have experienced MST
- MST has medical consequences
- Victims of MST need choice of treatment provider

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Legislative Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care (Task Force), created by House Bill 2718 (2009), found that MST had become an epidemic among women veterans. The United States Army reports 22 percent of women veterans indicate they have experienced MST. Adding unreported assaults would likely result in a much higher incident number. Nearly 1,500 veterans with MST have been treated in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VA) system in Oregon. Many veterans with MST, however, do not feel safe reporting assaults or seeking treatment within the military system.

Senate Joint Memorial 3 urges Congress to mandate payment for treatment of MST for providers outside the VA System to give MST victims the option of seeking treatment from providers with whom they may be more comfortable. Senate Joint Memorial 3 also requires that an experienced MST counselor be on staff at every Vet Center.