

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	4 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/16, 2/23

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Veterans who have experienced MST
- MST symptoms
- Need for adequate screening and treatment of MST
- Unwillingness of some MST victims to report or seek treatment from military system.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Legislative Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care (the Task Force), created by House Bill 2718 (2009), found that military sexual trauma (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 1500 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.