

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:	4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to fund mobile health care buses for women veterans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 7,000 out of 25,000 women veterans in Oregon use Veterans Administration health care
- Outreach for women veterans to increase health care use
- Providing access for rural women veterans to access health care

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Legislative Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care (Task Force), created by House Bill 2718 (2009), recognized the need for mobile health care for women veterans and recommended that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VA) obtain and staff a mobile health care unit for women veterans. There are 25,000 women veterans in Oregon, but only 7,000 utilize VA medical facilities and personnel. One reason many women veterans do not access VA medical care is lack of transportation. It is difficult for some women veterans in rural Oregon to access the medical care for which they are eligible. The Task Force concluded that the number of women veterans getting VA medical care might increase if medical care was brought to the veterans. The VA already uses a mobile Vet Center that provides counseling to veterans who would otherwise not be able to access it.

Senate Joint Memorial 6 urges Congress to fund mobile health care buses for women veterans, ensuring that women veterans are able to access care they need.