

Enrolled
Senate Joint Memorial 1

Sponsored by Senators MONNES ANDERSON, BOQUIST; Senator EDWARDS (Pre-session filed.)

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-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas our veterans have performed admirably and bravely in defense of our nation; and

Whereas homelessness is a serious problem among veterans with, according to United States Department of Veterans Affairs estimates, 107,000 veterans facing homelessness on any given night; and

Whereas it is estimated that one out of three homeless men who are sleeping in doorways, alleys or cardboard boxes in our cities and rural communities has worn a uniform and served this country; and

Whereas while only eight percent of the general population can claim veteran status, nearly one-fifth of the homeless population are veterans; and

Whereas in addition to the complex set of factors that influence homelessness, a large number of displaced and at-risk veterans live with the lingering effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse, which are compounded by a lack of family and support networks; and

Whereas although the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' specialized programs for homeless veterans served more than 92,000 veterans in 2009, this left more than 100,000 veterans who experienced homelessness and had to seek assistance from local government agencies and community- and faith-based service organizations; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has numerous programs designed to help homeless veterans, and the department needs more flexibility in its approach to easing the homeless crisis among veterans; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) We, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, support the plan of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to end veteran homelessness in five years and to prevent future veteran homelessness through a combination of permanent supportive housing, transitional housing and increased collaboration with government and community partners, consistent with the homelessness policy set forth in ORS 458.528.

(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, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by Senate March 24, 2011

Readopted by Senate May 10, 2011

Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 5, 2011

Bruce Hanna, Speaker of House

Arnie Roblan, Speaker of House