

# Senate Joint Memorial 1

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

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges United States Department of Veterans Affairs to place greater emphasis on transitional housing for homeless veterans.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

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; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' assistance for homeless veterans focuses primarily on home ownership, but there is a vital need for a greater focus on transitional housing; now, therefore,

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

(1) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to the department's existing programs for homeless veterans, is urged to place increased emphasis on transitional housing for veterans.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1           (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate  
2 Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
3 fairs and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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