

Senate Joint Memorial 8

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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 Congress to pass legislation requiring United States Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for treatment obtained from providers other than Veterans Health Administration facilities by victims of military sexual trauma.

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 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration is charged with providing health care, including mental health care, to all eligible veterans; and

Whereas military sexual trauma, which can result in post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and other mental and emotional health concerns, is at epidemic levels in the Armed Forces of the United States with one in every five female servicemembers claiming to have experienced some form of military sexual trauma; and

Whereas demand for mental health care from the Veterans Health Administration significantly outpaces the amount of mental health care that the Veterans Health Administration can provide; and

Whereas the caseloads of Veterans Health Administration mental health care providers are so large that the providers cannot provide appropriate and timely care to veterans seeking care; and

Whereas Veterans Health Administration mental health care is an earned benefit for all eligible veterans; now, therefore,

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

(1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to pass legislation that requires the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for mental health care obtained from providers other than Veterans Health Administration facilities by victims of military sexual trauma.

(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 and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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.