

House Joint Memorial 201

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Veterans Affairs for Oregon Chiropractic Association)

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 Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Portland VA Medical Center:

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

Whereas back pain and musculoskeletal injuries are among the most common conditions in combat operations; and

Whereas musculoskeletal injuries such as back injuries have the lowest return-to-unit rate, at 13 percent; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs 2010 data analysis of VA health care utilization among veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom cites diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective system, such as low back pain, as the number one ailment of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans accessing the department for treatment; and

Whereas chiropractic physicians specialize in the examination, diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal injuries and conditions such as low back pain; and

Whereas chiropractic physicians use spinal manipulation as their primary mode of treatment for back injuries; and

Whereas spinal manipulation is the only nonpharmacological treatment recommended for acute, subacute and chronic back pain by the State of Oregon Evidence-based Clinical Guidelines for evaluation and management of low back pain; and

Whereas chiropractic physicians have the most comprehensive training in spinal manipulation; and

Whereas, due to their extensive training and clinical outcomes, chiropractic physicians provide 94 percent of all spinal manipulation in the United States; and

Whereas Congress enacted Public Law 107-135 and Public Law 108-170, instructing the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to hire chiropractic physicians and place them at various VA health care facilities throughout the country; and

Whereas the Portland VA Medical Center has not hired a chiropractic physician; and

Whereas the overwhelming majority of Oregon's eligible veterans continue to be denied access to the services provided by chiropractic physicians; now, therefore,

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

2 (1) The Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to pass the Chiropractic Care
3 Available to All Veterans Act, passage of which would ensure the accessibility of the essential
4 services provided by chiropractic physicians to veterans in Oregon.

5 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the members
6 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to the Director
7 of the Portland VA Medical Center.

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