

House Joint Memorial 1

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

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 overturn United States Department of Veterans Affairs regulation prohibiting provision of service or therapy dogs for veterans with emotional and mental disabilities.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

6 Whereas many veterans from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as veterans
7 of past conflicts, suffer from physical, emotional and mental disabilities due to their military service;
8 and

9 Whereas there are both evidence-based and anecdotal accounts of people with emotional and
10 mental trauma experiencing significant improvement through animal therapy; and

11 Whereas any treatment that benefits veterans with emotional and mental disabilities due to
12 their military service should be available to the veterans and their families, including service or
13 therapy dogs; and

14 Whereas providers of animal therapy are eager to assist Oregon's veteran population both in the
15 reintegration phase of their return from combat operations and throughout their lives as they man-
16 age their emotional and mental disabilities; now, therefore,

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

18 (1) We, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, respectfully request that the
19 Congress of the United States overturn the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regulation
20 prohibiting the provision of service or therapy dogs for veterans with emotional and mental disa-
21 bilities.

22 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate
23 Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon
24 Congressional Delegation.
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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.