

HJM 14-1
(LC 3566)
4/7/15 (DJ/eyr/ps)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14**

1 On page 1 of the printed joint memorial, delete lines 2 and 3 and insert:
2 “To the President of the United States, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
3 and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of
4 America, in Congress assembled:”.

5 Delete lines 11 through 14 and insert:

6 “Whereas the VA has implemented two new temporary nationwide pro-
7 grams, the Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) program and the VA
8 Choice Program, funded at \$19.8 billion and aimed at improving veterans’
9 access to health care by using local non-VA providers rather than distant
10 VA treatment resources; and”.

11 Delete lines 17 and 18.

12 Delete lines 21 through 27 and insert:

13 “Whereas veterans are experiencing great difficulty in utilizing PC3 and
14 the VA Choice Program because of a lack of easily accessible information,
15 inconsistent VA interpretation of rules, VA facility criteria regarding VA
16 Choice Program eligibility and confusion caused by the VA’s narrow defi-
17 nitions of driving distance; and

18 “Whereas the VA is not providing veterans, health care providers and
19 taxpayers with cost and performance data on PC3 and VA Choice Program
20 implementation that would allow evaluation of the performance of the pro-
21 grams against their stated goals such as veteran and non-VA provider en-
22 rollment, referrals to non-VA providers, waiting times, quality of care and

1 funding; and

2 “Whereas PC3 and the VA Choice Program are the current major VA
3 programs aimed at raising the expectations of veterans and non-VA providers
4 that veterans can receive timely quality care near their residences; and

5 “Whereas the VA and Congress have not defined the future of PC3 and
6 the VA Choice Program beyond their temporary time frames; and

7 “Whereas PC3 and the VA Choice Program have the potential to achieve
8 significant improvements in timeliness and quality of health care provided
9 to rural and other qualified veterans; and

10 “Whereas the VA and Congress should establish a goal of consolidating
11 PC3 and the VA Choice Program into a permanent program; and

12 “Whereas Congress should not allow the VA to divert funds from PC3 and
13 the VA Choice Program to in-house VA programs; and

14 “Whereas there are approximately 22 million veterans living today, 5.3
15 million of whom live in rural areas; and

16 “Whereas 3.2 million veterans who live in rural areas are enrolled in the
17 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care system; and

18 “Whereas 2.6 million patients enrolled in the VHA health care system
19 have a service-connected disability; and

20 “Whereas 960,000 veterans from rural areas have a service-connected dis-
21 ability; and

22 “Whereas a disproportionate number of all service members are from ru-
23 ral areas; and

24 “Whereas many veterans from rural areas return to their rural commu-
25 nities after their service period; now, therefore,”.

26 Delete lines 29 through 31 and delete page 2 and insert:

27 “That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, re-
28 spectfully urge the Congress of the United States of America to support the
29 mission of the Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health and
30 efforts to improve access to health care for veterans in rural areas; and be

1 it further

2 “Resolved, That we urge Congress to improve, support and accelerate
3 outreach efforts to bring health care to veterans in rural areas; and be it
4 further

5 “Resolved, That we respectfully request that the Secretary of Veterans
6 Affairs make public information on the Patient-Centered Community Care
7 program and the Department of Veterans Affairs Choice Program, including
8 data on the effectiveness of the programs and the number of veterans served
9 by the programs; and be it further

10 “Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President
11 of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the
12 House of Representatives, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to each
13 member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.”.

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