

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Joint Memorial 14**

Ordered by the House May 10  
Including House Amendments dated May 10

Sponsored by 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.

Urges Congress to fund health care for veterans without increased copayments and user fees.

**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-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas men and women from the State of Oregon in the Armed Forces of the United States have served and continue to serve loyally and bravely in defense of their country; and

Whereas a grateful nation cares for and bestows benefits upon veterans because the nation owes its present prosperity and continued existence to veterans; and

Whereas George Washington, first President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, is reported to have said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation"; and

Whereas there is a mismatch between demand for services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and resources to meet that demand; and

Whereas vision, dental and mental health care are among the most urgent needs of the nation's veterans; and

Whereas the 2004 Edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" states that veterans can enroll in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system only to the extent that Congressional appropriations allow; and

Whereas each year funding for health care for this nation's veterans is subject to a budget battle; and

Whereas it is clear that the current funding system does not result in sufficient or timely allocation of resources; and

Whereas copayments and user fees required of veterans, their dependents or their survivors who are currently enrolled in veterans' health care are unnecessarily and unfairly burdensome; now, therefore,

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

**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           (1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to fully fund veterans' health care,  
2 including vision, dental and mental health care, without additional amounts required as copayments  
3 or user fees and to make veterans' health care one of its highest federal budget priorities for fiscal  
4 year 2005-2006.

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

8

---