

A-Engrossed
House Joint Memorial 18

Ordered by the House May 12
Including House Amendments dated May 12

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 change [*funding of*] **spending on** veterans' health care from discretionary [*entitlement to permanent and direct entitlement*] **spending to direct spending**.

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-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas the future of our nation and the American way of life depends on this nation's success
7 in defending against its enemies at home and abroad; and

8 Whereas the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Ma-
9 rine, the reserve components and the National Guard of each state have performed admirably and
10 bravely in defense of this nation; and

11 Whereas a grateful nation cares for and bestows benefits upon its brave veterans to whom this
12 nation owes its present prosperity and continued existence; and

13 Whereas veterans' benefits include education, health care, pensions and disability payments; and

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

19 Whereas the 2004 edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" states that veter-
20 ans are enrolled in the Department of Veterans' Affairs health care system only to the extent that
21 Congressional appropriations allow; and

22 Whereas the provision of veterans' health care is exceedingly important to veterans and their
23 families or survivors; and

24 Whereas the provision of payments to disabled veterans is among the most solemn responsibil-
25 ities of the American people; and

26 Whereas federal spending on veterans' health care is discretionary rather than direct; now,
27 therefore,

28 **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 change spending on veterans'
2 health care from discretionary spending funded by annual appropriations to direct spending funded
3 by mandated appropriations.

4 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States and to each
5 member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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