

House Joint Memorial 24

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 **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to provide parity in mental health care and make veterans' mental health care benefits similar to benefits for physical care.

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

Whereas the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, the reserve components and each state's National Guard have performed admirably and bravely in defense of this nation; and

Whereas current combat assignments in the War on Terror are exceedingly stressful because the assignments require fighting irregular forces while providing security to civilian populations; and

Whereas a relatively large percentage of currently deployed soldiers will be returning home with mental and emotional problems resulting from their military assignments; and

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

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

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

Whereas care and compensation for veterans' mental and emotional problems are as important as care and compensation for veterans' physical disabilities; and

Whereas limitations on the care available for veterans with mental and emotional problems greatly restricts the prospects for successful treatment and recovery of veterans afflicted by service-connected mental and emotional problems; now, therefore,

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

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to provide parity in mental health care and to make veterans' mental health care benefits similar to the benefits for their physical care.

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

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.