

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 76

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Andrew J. Barreras

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ASSURE
FULL MANDATORY FUNDING FOR VETERANS' HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND
TO RECOGNIZE THE HEALTH CARE OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES
TO THE COUNTRY'S VETERANS.

WHEREAS, the mission and motto of the department of
veterans affairs is "to care for him who has borne the battle,
and for his widow and orphan"; and

WHEREAS, President George Washington stated, "The
willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in
any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly
proportionate to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars
were treated and appreciated by their country"; and

WHEREAS, whenever the United States military has been
called upon to send forces into harm's way, all who become

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 soldiers, our sons and daughters alike, have proudly answered
2 the call; and

3 WHEREAS, we, as citizens of the United States, have
4 promised our troops, through military enlistment contracts,
5 comprehensive, quality health care for those veterans honorably
6 discharged from the United States armed forces, past, present
7 and future; and

8 WHEREAS, while the legislators and legislative bodies of
9 our government at all levels have recognized the importance of
10 supporting those who serve the United States, legislation
11 itself has fallen short of meeting the health care needs of our
12 veterans; and the current discretionary funding mechanisms for
13 veteran' health care is beset by numerous flaws, preventing
14 many veterans from receiving the quality health care they
15 earned and deserve; and

16 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2006, the United States senate voted
17 against adopting mandatory funding for veterans' health care
18 services that would have insured mandatory funding for
19 veterans' health care needs; and

20 WHEREAS, a government accountability office report issued
21 in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources experienced by the
22 veterans health administration and its understaffed workforce
23 as they attempt to process an increasing backlog of veterans'
24 claims; and

25 WHEREAS, former department of veterans affairs secretary,

.169232.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 Anthony Principi, has publicly stated that the department of
2 veterans affairs has been struggling to provide promised health
3 care services to the rapidly rising number of veterans
4 requiring health care services;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
7 congressional delegation be urged to ensure that health care
8 obligations for veterans be recognized; that the New Mexico
9 congressional delegation assure that legislation be introduced
10 into the house of representatives and the senate of the United
11 States congress; and that legislation assuring full mandatory
12 funding for veterans' health care services be approved by both
13 houses of congress and sent to the president for signing; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that full mandatory funding of
15 veterans' services be supported and that the great sacrifice
16 made for all Americans by those who enter the armed services of
17 the United States be recognized; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
20 delegation, the president of the United States and the
21 secretary of veterans affairs.

22 - 3 -
23
24
25