

By: Mabry

H.R. No. 111

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital in Waco serves
2 every county in Texas as the only VA hospital in the state that
3 provides psychiatric care as its principal function; and

4 WHEREAS, The federal government has invested significantly
5 in the Waco VA Hospital, spending \$12.4 million to enhance a
6 facility for acute psychiatric care and \$11.3 million to renovate
7 and modernize a psychiatric-geriatric building; and

8 WHEREAS, State government also invested in the Waco VA
9 Hospital by locating a Texas Veterans Commission regional office
10 near the facility to provide integrated services to the large
11 concentration of veterans in the area; and

12 WHEREAS, Operating 15 rehabilitation beds to serve blind
13 veterans, the Waco VA Hospital is known as a national referral
14 facility for blind rehabilitation; and

15 WHEREAS, In the past year alone, the Waco VA Hospital treated
16 1,800 psychiatric, posttraumatic stress disorder, and blind
17 rehabilitation patients, plus another 17,000 outpatients for
18 medical and psychiatric conditions, attesting to its importance to
19 Texas veterans from throughout the region; and

20 WHEREAS, Enjoying strong community support, the Waco VA
21 Hospital annually contributes an estimated \$203 million to the
22 local economy and directly and indirectly accounts for
23 approximately 2,000 jobs throughout Central Texas; and

24 WHEREAS, A VA proposal to close the Waco facility would

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1 interrupt the seamless delivery of services to many Texas veterans
2 and do great harm to the local economy; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th
4 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby oppose any proposal to
5 close the Waco Veterans Affairs Hospital and urge concerned Texans
6 and veterans to attend related hearings to lend their support for
7 the hospital and its retention.