

By: Martinez

H.C.R. No. 138

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Our veterans who live in South Texas have served
2 their country bravely and risked their lives to preserve our
3 country's freedom and democracy, and their sacrifices in our behalf
4 are deserving of a veterans hospital to meet their health care
5 needs; and

6 WHEREAS, Regrettably, South Texas currently lacks adequate
7 health care resources for these proud men and women; the sole
8 outpatient clinic in the eight-county area at the southern tip of
9 Texas has limited hours of operation and must refer patients to
10 other facilities for special tests or treatments; in addition, the
11 nearest veterans hospital to the region with inpatient acute
12 medical and surgical care and extended care is more than 250 miles
13 away in San Antonio; and

14 WHEREAS, Veterans in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy
15 Counties alone number greater than 46,000, and a May 2004 report by
16 the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) acknowledged the need for
17 improved and expanded medical facilities for veterans in South
18 Texas; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite this assessment, however, the DVA has
20 planned only the addition of 10 contract beds in Harlingen's Valley
21 Baptist Medical Center; and

22 WHEREAS, Weslaco is located in the center of the Rio Grande
23 Valley, less than one hour's drive from McAllen, Harlingen, and
24 Brownsville, making it a convenient site for a hospital to serve the

1 area's veterans; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 respectfully urge the Congress of the United States and the
4 Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill the department's goal of
5 providing excellence in patient care by building a veterans
6 hospital in Weslaco, Texas, to serve the more than 46,000 veterans
7 in South Texas who have bravely defended and served our country;
8 and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
10 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
11 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
12 senate of the United States Congress, to the secretary of veterans
13 affairs, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the
14 congress with the request that this resolution be officially
15 entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of
16 the United States of America.