

1-1 By: Martinez (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 138
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 16, 2005;
1-3 May 17, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran
1-4 Affairs and Military Installations; May 21, 2005, reported
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 21, 2005, sent
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, Our veterans who live in South Texas have served
1-9 their country bravely and risked their lives to preserve our
1-10 country's freedom and democracy, and their sacrifices in our behalf
1-11 are deserving of a veterans hospital to meet their health care
1-12 needs; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Regrettably, South Texas currently lacks adequate
1-14 health care resources for these proud men and women; the sole
1-15 outpatient clinic in the eight-county area at the southern tip of
1-16 Texas has limited hours of operation and must refer patients to
1-17 other facilities for special tests or treatments; in addition, the
1-18 nearest veterans hospital to the region with inpatient acute
1-19 medical and surgical care and extended care is more than 250 miles
1-20 away in San Antonio; and

1-21 WHEREAS, Veterans in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy
1-22 Counties alone number greater than 46,000, and a May 2004 report by
1-23 the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) acknowledged the need for
1-24 improved and expanded medical facilities for veterans in South
1-25 Texas; and

1-26 WHEREAS, Despite this assessment, however, the DVA has
1-27 planned only the addition of 10 contract beds in Harlingen's Valley
1-28 Baptist Medical Center; and

1-29 WHEREAS, Weslaco is located in the center of the Rio Grande
1-30 Valley, less than one hour's drive from McAllen, Harlingen, and
1-31 Brownsville, making it a convenient site for a hospital to serve the
1-32 area's veterans; now, therefore, be it

1-33 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-34 respectfully urge the Congress of the United States and the
1-35 Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill the department's goal of
1-36 providing excellence in patient care by building a veterans
1-37 hospital in Weslaco, Texas, to serve the more than 46,000 veterans
1-38 in South Texas who have bravely defended and served our country;
1-39 and, be it further

1-40 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-41 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-42 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
1-43 senate of the United States Congress, to the secretary of veterans
1-44 affairs, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the
1-45 congress with the request that this resolution be officially
1-46 entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of
1-47 the United States of America.

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