

By: Dunnam

H.R. No. 1431

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, The Waco Veterans Affairs Hospital is known as a
13 national referral facility for blind rehabilitation; the hospital
14 provides superior care for its approximately 1,800 psychiatric,
15 posttraumatic stress disorder, and blind rehabilitation patients
16 annually, as well as outstanding service for its outpatients with
17 medical and psychiatric conditions, whose visits number
18 approximately 100,000 per year; and

19 WHEREAS, Enjoying strong community support, the Waco
20 Veterans Affairs Hospital annually contributes an estimated \$203
21 million to the local economy; it has 750 employees and directly and
22 indirectly accounts for approximately 2,000 jobs throughout
23 Central Texas; and

24 WHEREAS, Any 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 79th Texas
4 Legislature hereby oppose any proposal to close the Waco Veterans
5 Affairs Hospital and urge concerned Texans and veterans to express
6 their support of the hospital and its retention.