

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 714

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Any proposal to close the Waco facility would interrupt the seamless delivery of services to many Texas veterans and do great harm to the local economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby oppose any proposal to close the Waco Veterans Affairs Hospital and urge concerned Texans and veterans to express their support of the hospital and its retention.

Averitt

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 28, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate