

By: Whitmire

S.R. No. 1050

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Citizens of the United States owe an incalculable debt to the nation's military personnel, who have served valiantly throughout this country's history and who have sacrificed so much in this country's behalf; and

WHEREAS, When our veterans need compensation for illnesses or disabilities incurred as a result of their service, it is incumbent on our government to respond as expeditiously as possible; currently, however, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is facing a substantial backlog of disability claims, and the amount of time that it takes to process these claims has risen significantly; and

WHEREAS, The total number of pending claims for disability compensation increased from 448,000 in April 2010 to 756,000 in April 2011; during that same period, the number of claims taking longer than four months to complete more than doubled, rising from 200,000 to 450,000; on average, it now takes six months to process a claim for compensation related to an illness or injury, and it is estimated that such cases will take an average of eight months to complete in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of the United States armed forces have earned the infinite gratitude of all Americans for their steadfast courage and devotion to duty, and they are deserving of swift assistance in their time of need; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby urge the nation's commander in chief, the executive branch of the federal government, and the United States Congress to assign top priority to alleviating the backlog of disability claims by United States veterans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate forward official copies of this Resolution to the president of the United States, to the secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this Resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.