

By: Farias, Guillen

H.C.R. No. 46

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

4 WHEREAS, The current U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
5 policy of suspending hospital and outpatient care services to  
6 incarcerated veterans is especially detrimental to those  
7 individuals in need of mental health care; some of these men and  
8 women are committed to the state hospitals awaiting restoration of  
9 competency in order to stand trial, and the scarcity of timely  
10 access to services in these facilities can prolong their detention;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Veterans suffer disproportionately from  
13 post-traumatic stress disorder, which is often worsened by  
14 incarceration and can lead to depression and suicidal thoughts and  
15 actions, and incarcerated veterans too often lack access to  
16 treatment for this condition; and

17 WHEREAS, Improved coordination between the VA and state and  
18 local jurisdictions would enable eligible veterans to continue to  
19 receive mental health care and other VA services; in addition, VA  
20 reimbursement provided to secure mental health facilities for  
21 forensic beds and services would ensure better medical treatment  
22 for veterans and help alleviate the legal delays frequently  
23 experienced by incarcerated veterans with mental health issues; and

24 WHEREAS, Veterans of the U.S. armed forces have earned the

1 lasting gratitude of all Americans for their devotion to duty, and  
2 they are deserving of prompt and compassionate assistance in their  
3 time of need; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
6 require the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide VA  
7 services to veterans on forensic commitments at state hospitals;  
8 and, be it further

9         RESOLVED, That Congress consider expanding such services to  
10 all incarcerated veterans; and, be it further

11         RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
12 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
13 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
15 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
16 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
17 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.