

By: Farias

H.C.R. No. 46

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 being held in 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 incarcerated veterans detained in state hospitals; and,
8 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.