

By: Metcalf

H.C.R. No. 44

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration is charged with
2 ensuring the health and well-being of the nation's veterans, but in
3 recent years, its failure to adequately perform its mission has
4 been the source of scandal; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2014, the United States Congress responded to
6 unconscionable delays and denials of care at VA facilities by
7 passing the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice,
8 Accountability, and Transparency Act, which allows access to
9 private medical care providers for veterans who have been waiting
10 more than 30 days for an appointment or who live more than 40 miles
11 from a VA facility; the law is set to expire in 2017, but U.S.
12 Senator John McCain of Arizona has filed the Care Veterans Deserve
13 Act of 2016, S.2896, which enhances and expands the major reforms of
14 the Veterans' Choice Act; and

15 WHEREAS, Provisions of S.2896 include allowing access to
16 walk-in clinics without preauthorization or copayment, the
17 expansion of VA pharmacy hours and telemedicine, and extending the
18 Veterans Choice Card program to permit all qualified veterans to
19 see the doctor of their choice; moreover, the bill encourages
20 best-practices peer review for VA facilities; the act would broaden
21 access to timely health care while offering greater choice and
22 flexibility to every eligible veteran; and

23 WHEREAS, Our nation's veterans have made enormous sacrifices
24 to guarantee our freedoms, and although the nation can never fully

1 repay its debt of gratitude, it can and should ensure timely access
2 to the highest quality of medical care; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
4 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to pass S.2896,
5 the Care Veterans Deserve Act of 2016; and, be it further

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