

By: Lozano

H.C.R. No. 74

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Men and women with full-time careers who are also
2 reservists in the Texas National Guard or another reserve component
3 of the United States armed forces provide a valuable service to
4 Texas and the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Also providing a valuable service to Texas and the
6 nation are men and women who have made the reserves of the armed
7 forces of the United States their full-time career; these military
8 technicians provide day-to-day readiness and training in reserve
9 component units and are considered to be federal employees; and

10 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, federal employees who are also
11 reservists or who work full time in a reserve component unit are
12 ineligible for TRICARE Reserve Select, the low-cost health benefits
13 plan offered to all other reserve component service members;
14 instead, these federal employees who are eligible for a federal
15 health benefits plan must use a more expensive health benefits
16 plan; and

17 WHEREAS, The cost difference between enrolling in TRICARE and
18 a federal health benefits plan can be significant in a family
19 budget; in a recent example, a full-time base services manager at an
20 Air National Guard base estimated that she paid \$4,700 more of her
21 \$57,000 annual salary for a federal health benefits plan than she
22 would for TRICARE; and

23 WHEREAS, To address the different treatment of reserve
24 component service members who are federal employees, Congress is

1 considering H.R. 613/S. 164, the TRICARE Reserve Select
2 Improvement Act, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for
3 TRICARE of members of the reserve components of the armed forces who
4 are eligible to enroll in a federal health benefits plan; and

5 WHEREAS, Enacting the TRICARE Reserve Select Improvement Act
6 would reduce the financial burden on valued members of the Texas
7 National Guard and other reserve components of the United States
8 armed forces; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact
11 H.R. 613/S. 164, the TRICARE Reserve Select Improvement Act; and,
12 be it further

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