

By: Miller

H.C.R. No. 91

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs 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 2018, the United States Congress responded to
6 unconscionable delays and denials of care at VA facilities by
7 passing the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening
8 Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018, or VA MISSION Act, which
9 requires continued access to private medical care providers for
10 veterans if the VA does not offer the care or services the veteran
11 requires, if the VA does not operate a full-service medical
12 facility in the state in which the veteran resides, if the veteran
13 was eligible for care in the community under the 40-mile rule in the
14 Veterans Choice Program, or when the veteran meets certain other
15 requirements; and

16 WHEREAS, By expanding the reforms established in the Veterans
17 Choice Act, The VA MISSION Act improves veteran access to walk-in
18 care as long as that veteran has used VA health care services within
19 a 24-month time period prior to requesting walk-in services; by
20 increasing its contracts with community-based health care
21 providers, the VA has drastically improved the availability of
22 walk-in services; and

23 WHEREAS, Important changes to the VA Comprehensive
24 Assistance For Family Caregivers program include expanded

1 eligibility for veterans with service-connected medical issues;
2 previously, access was more limited and emphasized post-9/11
3 military service; and

4 WHEREAS, The VA has tried to address the opioid epidemic
5 sweeping the nation by developing "Safe Opioid" procedures for VA
6 prescriptions; it now requires all its care providers, including
7 contractors, to use evidence-based guidelines for prescribing
8 opioid-based painkillers; in addition, it requires that community
9 health care providers have appropriate access to patient medical
10 history, encompassing all medication prescribed; and

11 WHEREAS, Our nation's veterans have made enormous sacrifices
12 to guarantee our freedoms, and although the nation can never fully
13 repay its debt of gratitude, it can and should ensure timely access
14 to the highest quality of medical care; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact
17 legislation to ensure that all veterans receive in a timely manner
18 the level of medical care that they have earned and that they so
19 richly deserve; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
21 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
22 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
23 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
24 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
25 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
26 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.