
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8040

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Jacobsen, Kastama, Thibaudeau, Berkey, Fraser, Doumit, Prentice, Horn, Kohl-Welles, Kline, Fairley, Oke, Stevens, Hale, Zarelli, T. Sheldon, B. Sheldon, Schmidt, McAuliffe, Keiser, Murray, Spanel, Brown, Eide, Rasmussen, Winsley and Benton

Read first time 01/26/2004. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, There are 670,000 veterans who have chosen to call the
9 great State of Washington home; and

10 WHEREAS, These citizens are deserving of a world class health care
11 system to deal with injuries and diseases resulting from their selfless
12 service to our country; and

13 WHEREAS, Washington State has significantly fewer veterans being
14 served by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S. DVA)
15 than other states in the nation, and in 2002 was ranked second to the
16 last in the number of veterans receiving health care through the U.S.
17 DVA; and

18 WHEREAS, Veterans in Washington State are being placed on waiting
19 lists by the U.S. DVA in order to receive health care and pharmacy
20 services; and

1 WHEREAS, The U.S. DVA national waiting list data from July 2002
2 through September 2003 indicates the Veterans' Integrated Service
3 Network 20, which includes Washington State, has the largest number of
4 veterans waiting for nonemergent clinic visits; and

5 WHEREAS, An increasing number of Washington State veterans who
6 formerly relied on alternate health care providers are finding
7 themselves without health care and are turning to the U.S. DVA for
8 their health care for the first time; and

9 WHEREAS, The U.S. DVA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced
10 Services (CARES) initiative has not fully considered the current and
11 future need for veterans' health care services across the Veterans'
12 Integrated Service Network; and

13 WHEREAS, It is imperative that Washington State receive adequate
14 federal resources to care for the increasing number of veterans who
15 will rely on the U.S. DVA for health care services;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
17 President will ensure the U.S. DVA health care system in Washington
18 State will be adequate to serve the current and future demands of our
19 state's veterans. Your Memorialists further pray that Congress and the
20 President affirm the debt owed these veterans and provide funding for
21 those services deemed necessary.

22 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
23 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
24 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans
25 Affairs, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
26 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
27 Washington.

--- END ---