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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**No. 42**

Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY O'PAKE, BRIGHTBILL, STACK, COSTA, LAVALLE,  
HELFRICK, LOGAN, WAGNER, TARTAGLIONE, MUSTO, THOMPSON, BELL,  
KUKOVICH, TILGHMAN, MOWERY, GREENLEAF, SCHWARTZ, BOSCOLA,  
EARLL, FUMO, STOUT, KITCHEN AND HUGHES, MARCH 27, 2001

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SENATOR CONTI, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AS AMENDED,  
APRIL 23, 2001

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A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the President and the Congress of the United  
2 States to take steps to reduce the long waiting list for  
3 veterans to see a physician to obtain benefits at Veterans  
4 Administration medical centers.

5 WHEREAS, All Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to our  
6 military veterans for their brave and unselfish service to  
7 protect and defend the United States and all of its citizens;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Many World War II and Korean War veterans are  
10 retired and some have serious health problems that require  
11 prompt attention; and

12 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 16% of the 700,000 veterans  
13 from the Persian Gulf War are receiving disability compensation  
14 and/or treatment which further compounds the pressure on an  
15 already strained health service delivery system; and

16 WHEREAS, Some of these veterans are waiting seven to ten  
17 months to become eligible for benefits to which they are

1 entitled; and

2 WHEREAS, Recent news accounts indicate that ~~approximately~~ <—  
3 ~~4,600 veterans are on a waiting list to see a physician for~~ OVER <—  
4 THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THE WAITING LIST TO SEE A PHYSICIAN FOR  
5 initial approval of benefits at the Lebanon Veterans  
6 Administration Medical Center alone; ~~therefore be it~~ HAS GROWN <—  
7 TO APPROXIMATELY 4,600 VETERANS; AND

8 WHEREAS, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SAME OR SIMILAR SITUATION  
9 EXISTS AT OUR OTHER VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTERS  
10 THROUGHOUT THIS COMMONWEALTH AND OUR NATION; THEREFORE BE IT

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States  
13 to take steps to reduce the waiting lists THAT HAVE DEVELOPED <—  
14 OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS and end the ~~outrageous~~ UNFORTUNATE <—  
15 delay of benefits that have been earned by the deserving  
16 veterans of our United States military services; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
19 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of  
20 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
21 Pennsylvania.