

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 10

Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY CASORIO, COHEN, D. EVANS, BAKER, BARRAR, BEYER, BISHOP, BOYD, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DePASQUALE, GALLOWAY, GEORGE, GOODMAN, HUTCHINSON, KING, KOTIK, MANN, MARKOSEK, MUNDY, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PETRONE, RAMALEY, READSHAW, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, LONGIETTI, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, GRUCELA, JOSEPHS, KULA, RAPP, FRANKEL, MELIO, DALLY, FREEMAN, BELFANTI, SCAVELLO, SOLOBAY, GIBBONS, WANSACZ, BASTIAN, DeLUCA, GINGRICH, GERGELY AND EVERETT, JANUARY 30, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, JANUARY 30, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to increase funding for
2 the medical needs of veterans who have served our country in
3 Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

4 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) faces a
5 critical situation in funding, primarily for veterans' health
6 care; and

7 WHEREAS, Ever-increasing demands on the system by veterans
8 returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi
9 Freedom and inadequate resources provided after the start of a
10 new fiscal year place enormous stress on the system and leave
11 the VA struggling to provide the care that veterans have earned
12 and deserve; and

13 WHEREAS, New veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are
14 at higher risk for psychiatric problems, including posttraumatic

1 stress disorder, depression and anxiety, in addition to
2 significant physical injuries, including brain injury; and

3 WHEREAS, The VA health care appropriation for the 2006 fiscal
4 year of \$22.5 billion proved to be inadequate; and

5 WHEREAS, An additional \$1.2 billion in emergency funding has
6 had to be appropriated as the number of personnel returning from
7 Iraq and Afghanistan seeking medical treatment through the VA
8 was severely underestimated; and

9 WHEREAS, The Administration has proposed a VA health care
10 budget totaling \$31.4 billion for the 2007 fiscal year, an
11 insufficient increase given the influx into the system of new
12 veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

13 WHEREAS, The Independent Budget for fiscal year 2007, a
14 comprehensive budget policy document coauthored by Paralyzed
15 Veterans of America, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans and
16 Veterans of Foreign Wars, recommends funding of \$32.4 billion
17 for veterans' health care during the 2007 fiscal year; and

18 WHEREAS, This funding request tracks the real needs of the VA
19 in providing quality health care in a timely manner to all
20 veterans enrolled in the system; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
22 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress to increase the
23 health care budget for the 2007 fiscal year to meet the medical
24 needs of veterans who have served our country in Operation
25 Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
27 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
28 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
29 Pennsylvania.