

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 25

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2022

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25.

This resolution urges the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a Vet Center in Northwestern New Jersey. The United States has a long history of providing services to veterans, beginning in colonial times and services available to veterans have continued to evolve with time. First established in 1979, Vet Centers offer community-based counseling and a wide range of social and psychological services. There are five Vet Centers in the State of New Jersey, none of which are located in the northwestern part of the State.

As of September 30, 2020, there were approximately 40,000 veterans residing in Morris, Sussex, Warren, and Hunterdon counties. Those veterans travel long distances or out-of-state to receive mental health care. The veterans' community in Sussex, Warren, Morris, and Hunterdon Counties has identified the need for an additional Vet Center in Northwestern New Jersey, which would help service the needs of New Jersey veterans, service members, and their families.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.