

## HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

By COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

April 24

1 On page 1 of the printed joint memorial, delete lines 2 and 3 and insert:

2 “To the President of the United States, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Senate and  
3 the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.”.

4 Delete lines 11 through 14 and insert:

5 “Whereas the VA has implemented two new temporary nationwide programs, the Patient-  
6 Centered Community Care (PC3) program and the VA Choice Program, funded at \$19.8 billion and  
7 aimed at improving veterans’ access to health care by using local non-VA providers rather than  
8 distant VA treatment resources; and”.

9 Delete lines 17 and 18.

10 Delete lines 21 through 27 and insert:

11 “Whereas veterans are experiencing great difficulty in utilizing PC3 and the VA Choice Program  
12 because of a lack of easily accessible information, inconsistent VA interpretation of rules, VA fa-  
13 cility criteria regarding VA Choice Program eligibility and confusion caused by the VA’s narrow  
14 definitions of driving distance; and

15 “Whereas the VA is not providing veterans, health care providers and taxpayers with cost and  
16 performance data on PC3 and VA Choice Program implementation that would allow evaluation of  
17 the performance of the programs against their stated goals such as veteran and non-VA provider  
18 enrollment, referrals to non-VA providers, waiting times, quality of care and funding; and

19 “Whereas PC3 and the VA Choice Program are the current major VA programs aimed at raising  
20 the expectations of veterans and non-VA providers that veterans can receive timely quality care  
21 near their residences; and

22 “Whereas the VA and Congress have not defined the future of PC3 and the VA Choice Program  
23 beyond their temporary time frames; and

24 “Whereas PC3 and the VA Choice Program have the potential to achieve significant improve-  
25 ments in timeliness and quality of health care provided to rural and other qualified veterans; and

26 “Whereas the VA and Congress should establish a goal of consolidating PC3 and the VA Choice  
27 Program into a permanent program; and

28 “Whereas Congress should not allow the VA to divert funds from PC3 and the VA Choice Pro-  
29 gram to in-house VA programs; and

30 “Whereas there are approximately 22 million veterans living today, 5.3 million of whom live in  
31 rural areas; and

32 “Whereas 3.2 million veterans who live in rural areas are enrolled in the Veterans Health Ad-  
33 ministration (VHA) health care system; and

34 “Whereas 2.6 million patients enrolled in the VHA health care system have a service-connected  
35 disability; and

1       “Whereas 960,000 veterans from rural areas have a service-connected disability; and  
2       “Whereas a disproportionate number of all service members are from rural areas; and  
3       “Whereas many veterans from rural areas return to their rural communities after their service  
4 period; now, therefore,”.

5       Delete lines 29 through 31 and delete page 2 and insert:

6       “That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Con-  
7 gress of the United States of America to support the mission of the Veterans Health Administration  
8 Office of Rural Health and efforts to improve access to health care for veterans in rural areas; and  
9 be it further

10       “Resolved, That we urge Congress to improve, support and accelerate outreach efforts to bring  
11 health care to veterans in rural areas; and be it further

12       “Resolved, That we respectfully request that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs make public in-  
13 formation on the Patient-Centered Community Care program and the Department of Veterans Affairs  
14 Choice Program, including data on the effectiveness of the programs and the number of veterans  
15 served by the programs; and be it further

16       “Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to  
17 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of  
18 Veterans Affairs and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.”.

19

---