

House Joint Memorial 15

Sponsored by Representative COWAN; Representatives BARKER, DEMBROW, DOHERTY, GELSER, HOYLE, J SMITH (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to enact community-based care system legislation for veterans.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas it is the policy of the State of Oregon to care for its aging population in the most independent and comfortable setting possible; and

Whereas the State of Oregon has invested significant resources developing a community-based care system that includes independent living, assisted living, residential care and other options that are designed to allow aging Oregonians in need of assistance to receive that assistance in their own homes or in their own communities; and

Whereas the State of Oregon is moving away from the nursing home model to alternative community-based care; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration is also moving towards home- and community-based services for veterans; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs continues to focus its resources on building veterans' homes on a skilled nursing facility model; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs model is not consistent with the policy of the State of Oregon or with the national trend away from nursing homes in favor of community-based care; and

Whereas the State of Oregon wants to partner with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide appropriate care for its aging veteran population that is based on the community-based care model; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully requested to change federal law to allow the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for veterans' community-based care, including home care, assisted living and residential care, and to allow state veterans' homes to include assisted living for veterans who choose to reside with other veterans.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

