

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5011

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States to provide lifetime health care benefits for military retirees and their families.

WHEREAS, Inasmuch as many of our citizens have risen to the defense and safeguard of our state and nation, this Concurrent Resolution of support and honor recognizes those individuals who unselfishly served our state and nation as they defended our democratic way of life and the freedoms set down by the founding fathers of this nation; and

WHEREAS, The state of Kansas through its Legislature acknowledges and recognizes the contribution these veterans of military service have made to the estate of all our citizens, and we ask the Congress of the United States to acknowledge these retired veterans by continuing to support and improve their quality of life through extended health care; and

WHEREAS, This population of retired veterans served during foreign and domestic crises of the 20th century, where their involvement with names such as Ardennes, Wake, Guadalcanal, Normandy, Bastogne and Iwo Jima earned our nation's highest respect and accolades; while other names not so common to America were added during the Korean conflict, like Inchon and Choson; later came other Asian names like DaNang, Khe Sanh, Hue and Quang Tri; places these retired veterans know all too well as a battleground which tested their will to survive and return; and

WHEREAS, These retired veterans now constitute a significant portion of the aging population in this country and, in particular, our state; and

WHEREAS, These retired veterans were guaranteed through contract, both stated and implied, lifetime access to medical benefits for themselves and their immediate family members upon retirement for serving their nation unselfishly and honorably for 20 years or more; and

WHEREAS, Prior to retirement at age 65 years, this population of our citizenry were provided health care service through the military health care system or through other U.S. Department of Defense programs; however, upon reaching the age of 65 years and through recent Federal regulatory changes in entitlements for military health care benefits, these individuals that served and their family members, lost significant portions of their health care support system; and

WHEREAS, The medical benefits which were lost through changes to Federal legislation forced these retired veterans to pay out-of-pocket for medical coverage from alternative sources; and those changes forced these citizens into omnibus national health care programs, such as Medicare; and

WHEREAS, Many retired veterans and their immediate family members live on fixed incomes where the loss of medical benefits significantly impacts their quality of life, disrupts their needed levels of care and puts out of reach certain health care capabilities and pharmaceutical support to which they had been previously entitled; and

WHEREAS, Many of these retired veterans suffering from service connected injuries, serious illnesses, or medically-related quality of life developments have found that their access to medical treatment facilities is now limited due to significant downsizing or in many rural areas has become nonexistent; and

WHEREAS, These honorable men and women of Kansas and of this nation who have sacrificed in the uniformed service of our country are deserving of the health care programs to sustain their quality of life that they were guaranteed for 20 or more years of unselfish service; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature of the state of Kansas has a special charge to safeguard and maintain the quality of life for its citizens that have served and earned a retirement from military service: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the Kansas Legislature respectfully requests and petitions its Congressional representatives of the United States to address, for rectification, the aforementioned concerns regarding the health care coverage of our retired military veterans and their immediate families; and

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Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State is hereby directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the president pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.

I hereby certify that the above CONCURRENT RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Adopted by the SENATE _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.