

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 47

By: Helton and Capps

A Resolution memorializing Congress to pass H.R. No. 2966, the "Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retiree's Act"; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, millions of Americans joined the armed service with the understanding that health care would be available to them when they retired. Prior to June 7, 1956, health care provided for retirees varied from service to service. This changed when Dependents Health Care, ultimately known as CHAMPUS, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services, was enacted. Those who entered the service after CHAMPUS was enacted could look forward to health care upon retirement, or so they thought. But for too many military retirees, there is no health care, or the health care that is available is inadequate; and

WHEREAS, H.R. No. 2996, the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act, will fix this broken promise and provide health care to millions of Americans who are military retirees. For too many military retirees, there is no health care, or the health care that is available is inadequate. Already, more than 200 members of Congress have co-sponsored H.R. 2966, and more than 50 veteran and military-related organizations are endorsing it; and

WHEREAS, H.R. No. 2966 is landmark legislation that will restore adequate health care that was promised to all military retirees. It will make military retirees who entered military service prior to CHAMPUS eligible for health care under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. It also extends expanded options for health care to all military retirees. Under its provisions, military retirees can enroll in the Federal Employees Health Care Program or they can participate in the CHAMPUS program after they reach the age 65 or they can remain in the TRICARE program; and

WHEREAS, H.R. No. 2966 resulted from a meeting Congressman Ronnie Shows had with a group of military retirees, in which he learned about the health care problems they faced. The federal government should provide health care that was promised to our military retirees and to which they are entitled after devoting their lives to defending our country. Breaking this promise hurts our current ability to recruit for the armed forces. The Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act is about the 4 R's: military Recruitment, Retention, Readiness and doing the Right thing by our military retirees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate memorializes Congress to pass H.R. No. 2966, the "Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act".

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma War Department of Veterans Affairs and members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation.

Adopted by the Senate the 22nd day of February, 2000.

President of the Senate