

ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1019

By: Benson, Adair, Deutschendorf, Kirby, Liotta, Smith (Hopper), Wells, Wilson, Adkins, Askins, Balkman, Begley, Bengel, Blackburn, Bonny, Braddock, Calvey, Cargill, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Corn, Covey, Cox, Dank, Davis, Dunegan, Easley, Eddins, Ericson, Ervin, Erwin, Ferguson, Fields, Friskup, Gilbert, Glover, Graves, Gray, Greenwood, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Hutchison, Ingmire, Jones, Langmacher, Leist, Lindley, Maddux, Mass, Matlock, McCarter, Miller (Doug), Miller (Ray), Mitchell, Morgan, Nance, Nations, Newport, O'Neal, Paulk, Perry, Peters, Peterson, Pettigrew, Phillips, Piatt, Plunk, Pope (Clay), Pope (Tim), Reese, Rice, Roach, Roan, Roberts, Roggow, Ross, Smaligo, Smith (Dale), Staggs, Stanley, Steele, Stites, Sullivan (John), Sullivan (Leonard), Sweeden, Taylor, Tibbs, Toure, Turner, Tyler, Vaughn, Walker, Webb, Wilt, Winchester, Worthen, Wright and Young of the House

and

Helton of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress and the President to enact legislation that recognizes the importance that the United States government maintain its commitment to America's military retirees by providing lifetime health care for military retirees over sixty-five years of age; requiring opening the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program to eligible uniformed services beneficiaries; providing any other appropriate legislation that addresses the concerns set forth in the measure; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, military retirees who have served honorably for 20 or more years constitute a significant part of the aging population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these retirees were encouraged to make the United States Armed Forces a career, in part by the promise of lifetime health care for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, prior to the age of 65 years, these retirees are provided health services by the United States Department of Defense's TRICARE Prime program, but those retirees who reach the age of 65 years lose a significant portion of the promised health care due to Medicare eligibility; and

WHEREAS, many of these retirees are also unable to access military treatment facilities for health care and life maintenance medications because they live in areas where there are no military treatment facilities, or where these facilities have downsized so significantly that available space for care has become nonexistent; and

WHEREAS, the loss of access to health care services provided by the military has resulted in the government breaking its promise of lifetime health care; and

WHEREAS, without continued affordable health care, including pharmaceuticals, these retirees have limited access to quality health care, and significantly less care than other retired federal civilians have under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to enact legislation that would restore health care benefits equitable with those of other retired federal workers; and

WHEREAS, several proposals to meet this requirement are currently under consideration before the United States Congress, the federal Department of Defense and the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Of these proposals, the federal government has already begun to establish demonstration projects around the country to be conducted over the next three years, including one in California, which would allow Medicare to reimburse the federal

Department of Defense for the costs of providing military retirees and their dependents health care. This project would allow a limited number of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries to enroll in the TRICARE Prime Program and receive all of their health care under that program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma calls upon the United States government to maintain its commitment to America's military retirees by providing lifetime health care for military retirees over the age of 65 years.

THAT the Legislature respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to provide America's military retirees and their families with the health care they were promised, by enacting comprehensive legislation that affords military retirees the ability to access health care either through military treatment facilities or through the military's network of health care providers as well as legislation to require opening the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) to those uniformed services beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicare, on the same basis and conditions that apply to retired federal civilian employees.

THAT the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to enact any other appropriate legislation that would address the concerns set forth in this measure.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Chairpersons of the United States House and Senate Committees on Aging, to each Senator and Representative for Oklahoma in the Congress of the United States and to the administrative heads

of the federal Department of Defense and the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 23rd day of April, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the Senate