

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1019

By: Covey

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution memorializing Congress to reject the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, our enduring freedom in the United States has been bought with the blood, sacrifice, and lives of our nation's service men and women; and

WHEREAS, to best honor their service and sacrifice it behooves us as states and as a Union to give back to our veterans the support which we have pledged from time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, after the American Civil War and for over 100 years since, the federal government has kept its commitment to provide support for the State Veterans Homes; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs renders ineligible 1,110 of Oklahoma's 1,433 veterans currently receiving assistance; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs proposes significant and unacceptable cuts in per diem benefits to 78% of the patients currently in the seven veterans homes in Oklahoma and to the 360,000 veterans in our state who will one day come to rely on those benefits; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs imposes a moratorium on grants for construction on new State Veterans Homes, would possibly lead to closure of many homes in 47 states, and places in serious jeopardy

much-needed care and support for an entire generation of veterans that increasingly relies of the promises made by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs sets forth an increase of prescription drug co-pays for veterans by doubling it from \$7 to \$15 per prescription, thereby further burdening our veterans to whom we have promised to give support; and

WHEREAS, in passing the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs the financial burden it would place on the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Veterans Homes, and Oklahoma's veterans, many of whom are elderly and afflicted with complex physical and mental conditions, is unjustifiable; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs would create cause for current and future service men and women to question the level of commitment their country has to their welfare and will therefore weaken the morale of the United States Armed Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the House of Representatives memorializes Congress to keep our commitment to our veterans by rejecting the President's FY-06 Budget for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and to ensure that current levels of funding are not threatened.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the President, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, and to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

50-1-7200

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