

A-Engrossed
House Joint Memorial 19

Ordered by the House April 20
Including House Amendments dated April 20

Sponsored by Representative NELSON (at the request of Oregon War Veterans Association)

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.

[Urges Congress to fund transportation of, and United States Department of Defense to transport, comfort items to troops overseas at no cost on military flights.]

Urges Congress to change spending on veterans' health care from discretionary spending to direct spending funded by mandated appropriations and to fund transportation of comfort items at no cost to donating organizations on military flights provided by United States Department of Defense.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled, and the Secretary of the United States Department
4 of Defense:

5 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in leg-
6 islative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

7 Whereas the future of our nation and the American way of life depends on this nation's success
8 in defending against its enemies at home and abroad; and

9 Whereas the United States Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Coast Guard,
10 the Reserves and the National Guard of each state have performed and continue to perform admi-
11 rably and bravely in defense of this nation; and

12 Whereas there is no question that comfort items donated to our heroic troops overseas add a
13 much needed touch of home for our troops; and

14 Whereas comfort items include peanuts, candy, applesauce, oatmeal packets, shampoo, batteries,
15 music videos and cassettes, games and reading materials; and

16 Whereas countless organizations collect comfort items donated by a grateful nation and the cost
17 of transporting the tons of donated items is prohibitive; and

18 Whereas although the United States Department of Defense transports privately donated
19 humanitarian cargo to foreign countries using military transport at no cost to the donating organ-
20 ization, it does not transport comfort items to our troops; and

21 Whereas a grateful nation also cares for and bestows benefits upon its brave veterans to whom
22 this nation owes its present prosperity and continued existence; and

23 Whereas veterans' benefits include education, health care, pensions and disability payments; and

24 Whereas George Washington, first President of the United States and Commander in Chief of
25 the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, is reported to have said, "The willingness with
26 which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly

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.

1 proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by
2 their nation”; and

3 Whereas the provision of veterans’ health care is exceedingly important to veterans and their
4 families or survivors; and

5 Whereas the provision of payments to disabled veterans is among the most solemn responsibil-
6 ities of the American people; and

7 Whereas federal spending on veterans’ health care is discretionary rather than direct; now,
8 therefore,

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

10 That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Con-
11 gress of the United States of America to:

12 (1) Provide funds to transport comfort items on military transports and the United States De-
13 partment of Defense to transport comfort items on military transports at no cost to the donating
14 organization; and

15 (2) Change spending on veterans’ health care from discretionary spending to direct spending
16 funded by mandated appropriations; and be it further

17 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to
18 the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of
19 the United States Department of Defense and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delega-
20 tion.

21 _____