

House Concurrent Resolution No. 35

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2227L.011

1 **Whereas**, funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care under the
2 federal budget is a discretionary program, meaning that it is within the discretion of the United
3 States Congress to determine how much money it will allocate each year for veterans' health
4 care; and
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6 **Whereas**, Title 38 of the United States Code, Section 1710(a) provides that the
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs "shall" furnish hospital care and medical services, but only to the
8 extent Congress has provided funding to cover the costs of care; and
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10 **Whereas**, veterans have earned the right to VA medical care through their
11 extraordinary sacrifices and service to this Nation; and
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13 **Whereas**, the cumulative effects of insufficient health care funding have now
14 resulted in the rationing of health care; and
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16 **Whereas**, VA has reached capacity for many of its health care facilities and is
17 unable to provide timely access to quality health care; and
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19 **Whereas**, the annual shortfall in the VA medical care budget translates directly into
20 higher national health care expenditures; and
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22 **Whereas**, when veterans cannot get needed health care services from VA, they go
23 elsewhere and the cost of care is shifted to state welfare and Medicaid programs or other safety

24 net hospitals where society pays more and the patient suffers; and
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26 **Whereas**, the Veterans Health Administration is the most efficient and cost-
27 effective health care system, providing care for 25% to 30% less than comparable Medicare
28 services; and
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30 **Whereas**, even though VA serves a population of veterans that is older, sicker, and
31 has a higher prevalence of mental and behavioral health problems, it does so at well below
32 Medicare rates; and
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34 **Whereas**, many veterans need and depend on the VA health care system and its
35 specialized services in prosthetics, post traumatic stress disorder, spinal cord injury, and blind
36 rehabilitation to treat their service-connected disabilities and meet their unique health care needs;
37 and
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39 **Whereas**, it is disingenuous for our government to promise health care to veterans
40 but then make it unattainable because of inadequate funding; and
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42 **Whereas**, making veterans' health care mandatory would ensure the government
43 meets its obligation to provide timely, quality health care to all veterans eligible for care in the
44 VA health care system:
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46 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
47 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
48 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to amend Title 38 of the United
49 States Code to provide a guaranteed level of funding for veterans health care with mandatory
50 funding; and
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52 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of

53 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
54 President of the United States, the United States Senate Majority and Minority Floor Leaders,
55 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Chairperson of the Senate
56 Veterans Affairs Committee, the Chairperson of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and
57 each member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.