

House Concurrent Resolution No. 28

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2167L.011

2 **Whereas**, the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFLW) established a
3 National Policy Committee on Veterans Affairs to ensure that the men and women who have
4 served in the Armed Forces are properly honored, revered, and cared for upon completion of
5 their service; and

6 **Whereas**, our nation established veterans programs to repay and reward
7 veterans for their extraordinary service and sacrifices on behalf of their fellow citizens; and

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9 **Whereas**, many of our nation's older veterans live on fixed incomes and rely on
10 assistance from veterans service organizations (VSOs) to apply for and obtain the benefits
11 owed to them by the federal government; and

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13 **Whereas**, Senate Bill No. 2694 introduced in the United States Congress would
14 amend existing law to permit attorneys and agents to charge veterans claimants for services
15 rendered in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims at all stages of the
16 process; and

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18 **Whereas**, Congress designed the current administrative claims process to be a
19 non-adversarial and pro-veteran, allowing veterans to file claims for disability benefits and
20 receive fair decisions from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) without
21 having to hire and pay a large portion of their benefits to lawyers; and

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23 **Whereas**, no injured or disabled veteran should have to pay an attorney to
24 obtain the benefits that a grateful nation provides and the veteran is rightfully due:

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26 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
27 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
28 concurring therein, hereby oppose any change in law that would authorize attorneys to charge
29 veterans a fee for benefits counseling or any claims services before the United States
30 Department of Veterans Affairs; and
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32 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
33 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each
34 member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.