
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 952 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY CLYMER, READSHAW, PICKETT, BAKER, KAUFFMAN, MAJOR,
TOEPEL, BLOOM, KIRKLAND, VEREB, McNEILL, TALLMAN, THOMAS,
SAYLOR, TURZAI, BOBACK, MILLARD, FLECK, GODSHALL, CAUSER,
BARRAR, O'NEILL, SCHLEGEL CULVER, WATSON, SACCONI, COHEN,
HAHN, DAVIS, LUCAS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, DeLUCA, SWANGER,
MARSICO, C. HARRIS, COX, QUINN, M. K. KELLER, GROVE, MILNE,
MURT, GILLEN, TOBASH AND ROCK, JULY 29, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JULY 29, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing displeasure with care and treatment our veterans have
2 been receiving and continue to receive at the United States
3 Department of Veteran Affairs facilities.

4 WHEREAS, The provision of benefits for veterans traces its
5 roots back to 1636, when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony were at
6 war with the Pequot Indians; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pilgrims passed a law requiring support for the
8 disabled soldiers from the colony; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1776, the Continental Congress encouraged
10 enlistment in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War
11 by providing pensions for soldiers who were disabled; and

12 WHEREAS, The earliest domiciliary and medical facility for
13 veterans was authorized by the Federal Government in 1811 and
14 the nation's assistance program was expanded to include benefits
15 and pensions for dependents of veterans; and

1 WHEREAS, Domiciliary care was also provided in many state
2 veterans homes, especially after the Civil War; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1930, Congress authorized the consolidation and
4 coordination of government activities affecting war veterans;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care
7 system has now grown from 54 hospitals in 1930 to 152 hospitals,
8 800 community-based outpatient clinics, 126 nursing home care
9 centers and 35 domiciliary care centers; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States citizens, our veterans and their
11 families expect to receive the greatest quality of care promised
12 to them over the decades; and

13 WHEREAS, The VA has had its challenges over the years in
14 administering the benefits earned by veterans; and

15 WHEREAS, The VA initiated a blueprint for the 21st century by
16 implementing a plan containing 16 major initiatives, such as
17 designing a veteran-centric health care model to help veterans
18 navigate the health care delivery system, receive coordinated
19 care and develop capabilities and systems to drive performance
20 and outcomes; and

21 WHEREAS, Promises have been made over the years to fix the
22 problems associated with the VA so that veterans and their
23 families can be better served; and

24 WHEREAS, In a 2007 speech, then Senator Obama said, "Keeping
25 faith with those who serve must always be a core American value
26 and a cornerstone of American patriotism. Because America's
27 commitment to its servicemen and women begins at enlistment, and
28 it must never end."; and

29 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, recent investigations have found this
30 core American value and commitment to be lacking; and

1 WHEREAS, Recent reports have indicated that over the past
2 several years, veterans have had their care compromised by being
3 subjected to delayed medical care, manipulated records to hide
4 delays and inappropriate scheduling; and

5 WHEREAS, As many as 1,700 veterans at the Phoenix VA hospital
6 waiting to see doctors have been found to not be on any waiting
7 list for appointments, and approximately 1,138 at the facility
8 have waited longer than six months to get an appointment with a
9 primary doctor; and

10 WHEREAS, Reports have also indicated that as many as 40
11 veterans may have died as a result of waiting to receive medical
12 care; and therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania express its collective displeasure
15 with care and treatment our veterans have been receiving and
16 continue to receive at the United States Department of Veterans
17 Affairs facilities; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives strongly urge the
19 President of the United States to take every necessary step to
20 honor our country's veterans by keeping faith with those who
21 serve because it is a core American value and a cornerstone of
22 American patriotism; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the President of the United States.