



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Moseley

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing that the purpose of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 is to speed up Veterans Health Administration (VHA) processing for health care requests by allowing veterans who face wait times of more than 30 days, or live more than 40 miles from the nearest VHA facility capable of treating them, to receive treatment at a non-VHA community hospital, and requesting that James Brown, director of the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Honorable Robert A. McDonald, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, take action to ensure the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 is being administered properly so that our veterans promptly receive the health care they have earned and deserve.

Whereas, Frequently, veterans in need of specialized health

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care must pay up front to travel across state lines to be reimbursed later, instead of receiving treatment at local community hospitals;

Whereas, The Veterans Choice Act permits veterans to seek care at community hospitals by use of a Veterans Choice Card when specialized care is unavailable or unreasonably delayed at local VHA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics;

Whereas, During the process of obtaining authorization to seek treatment locally through their Veterans Choice Card, veterans face delays that defeat the purpose of the Veterans Choice Act;

Whereas, Sending veterans out of state for treatment is costly and inconvenient, delays treatment, and is a stressor that negatively impacts health outcomes;

Whereas, It is the duty of the United States and the State of Indiana to ensure that veterans promptly receive the care they need for the sacrifices they have made defending our nation; and

Whereas, The Veterans Choice Act attempted to alleviate long wait times and provide convenient, first rate care for our veterans, but has thus far failed to do so: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives requests
2 immediate action by both the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and
3 the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure the effective
4 administration of the Veterans Choice Act so that veterans may quickly
5 and easily access local health care options when facing undue delay or
6 long commutes.
7 SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the
8 Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Indiana Director
9 of Veterans' Affairs and the U.S. Secretary of the Department of
10 Veterans Affairs.

