
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 46 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY PENNYCUICK, FARRY, BOSCOLA, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON,
CAPPELLETTI, COLLETT, SCHWANK, BARTOLOTTA, ROBINSON, BAKER,
COSTA, MUTH, PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD, MASTRIANO, BROWN AND
COMITTA, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
FEBRUARY 24, 2023

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish the
2 Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care.

3 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
4 Veterans Affairs, the projected veteran population nationwide is
5 18,500,000, with women making up an estimated 11% of that
6 population; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau estimates that the
8 percentage of female veterans between 2010 and 2040 will
9 increase from 9% in 2010 to 17% in 2040; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
11 Veterans Affairs, as of September 2022, this Commonwealth was
12 home to approximately 720,000 veterans, including 615,000
13 wartime veterans from World War II through the Gulf War; and

14 WHEREAS, Females comprise approximately 60,000 of the wartime
15 veterans; and

16 WHEREAS, The number of women veterans will increase with the

1 end of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and
2 the removal of the United States Armed Forces personnel from
3 Afghanistan; and

4 WHEREAS, Women veterans often face unique challenges in
5 transitioning from active duty to civilian life; and

6 WHEREAS, The challenging needs facing women veterans can
7 often be overlooked when providing services to a large veteran
8 population; and

9 WHEREAS, Ensuring the availability of specialized services
10 for physical health, such as obstetrics and gynecological care,
11 cancer screenings, family planning and infertility treatments,
12 as well as mental health, including, but not limited to,
13 treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain
14 injury, military sexual trauma and alcohol and substance abuse,
15 tailored to the specific needs of women veterans is essential to
16 ensure that our returning women veterans receive proper and
17 adequate care; and

18 WHEREAS, Establishing a task force to study the issues facing
19 women veterans and to make recommendations to the Governor and
20 the General Assembly will provide much-needed information and
21 insight from those who address the issues on a daily basis;
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
24 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania direct the
25 Joint State Government Commission to establish the Task Force on
26 Women Veterans' Health Care; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care
28 consist of the chair of the State Veterans' Commission and
29 representatives from:

30 (1) the health care provider community in this

1 Commonwealth that has experience in providing health care to
2 returning women veterans;

3 (2) the mental health care provider community of this
4 Commonwealth that has experience in providing mental health
5 care treatment to returning women veterans;

6 (3) the substance abuse and addiction treatment provider
7 community of this Commonwealth that has experience in
8 providing substance abuse and addiction treatment to
9 returning women veterans;

10 (4) a Commonwealth advocacy group that represents the
11 interests of sexual assault victims with experience in
12 providing services to women veterans who have suffered
13 military sexual trauma, including harassment or abuse; and

14 (5) a county veteran's court;

15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care
17 study the health care needs of women veterans, including, but
18 not limited to:

19 (1) quality of and access to mental health services,
20 including services and treatment for post-traumatic stress
21 disorder, traumatic brain injury and military sexual trauma;

22 (2) in-patient treatment availability;

23 (3) adequacy and availability of appropriate women
24 veterans' health care within the Federal Veterans Affairs
25 health care system and this Commonwealth, as well as the
26 interaction and recognition of the needs of women veterans by
27 private health care providers; and

28 (4) adequacy, quality of and access to services
29 providing for the identification and treatment of military
30 sexual trauma, including sexual harassment or abuse;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care
3 identify other needs relating to the provision of women
4 veterans' health care services; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care,
6 with the assistance of the Joint State Government Commission,
7 consult with Federal, State and local entities, including, but
8 not limited to:

9 (1) The Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation.

10 (2) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

11 (3) The County Commissioners Association of
12 Pennsylvania.

13 (4) The Pennsylvania Municipal League.

14 (5) The Pennsylvania Medical Society.

15 (6) The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of
16 Pennsylvania.

17 (7) Veterans organizations or other organizations or
18 associations that advocate for women veterans.

19 (8) Any individual the task force identifies as having
20 relevant, salient and timely experience within the Veterans
21 Affairs health care system for women in Pennsylvania;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission:

24 (1) Accept and review written comments from individuals
25 and organizations.

26 (2) Report findings and recommendations within 18 months
27 from the adoption of this resolution, to the Governor, the
28 Senate and the House of Representatives.

29 (3) Include in the report under paragraph (2)
30 recommendations to:

1 (i) improve the delivery of health care services,
2 including preventative, maintenance and acute care, as
3 well as mental health services to women veterans; and

4 (ii) recommend necessary changes in State statutes
5 and practices, policies and procedures relating to the
6 delivery of health care and mental health services to
7 women veterans;

8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of the report required under this
10 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the presiding officers of
12 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
13 Pennsylvania.