## 111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 261

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Veterans Affairs should not retreat from its responsibility to support those veterans with combat wounds or service-connected disabilities.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 18, 2009

Mr. Frelinghuysen submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

## **RESOLUTION**

- Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Veterans Affairs should not retreat from its responsibility to support those veterans with combat wounds or service-connected disabilities.
- Whereas President Abraham Lincoln promised ". . . to care for him who bore the brunt of battle, his widow and his orphan . . .";
- Whereas it is the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan";
- Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs emphasizes that it will "provide veterans the world-class benefits and services they have earned—and to do so by adhering to the highest standards of compassion, commitment, excellence,

professionalism, integrity, accountability, and steward-ship";

Whereas one of the ways the Nation provides support for the men and women who fight overseas is to ensure that veterans' programs are effective and reliable at home;

Whereas the President is said to be considering a proposal that would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to recover or collect charges from a veteran's private health insurance provider for hospital care and medical services furnished by the Department for a service-connected disability;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs is currently authorized to recover or collect from third-party insurers of veterans charges for hospital care and medical services furnished by the Department for non-service connected conditions; and

Whereas expanding this policy to bill a veteran's personal insurance for care that the Department of Veterans Affairs has a responsibility to provide would break the solemn compact between a veteran and the Government: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that—
- 3 (1) the President should not formally propose a
- 4 change in policy as significant as the proposal to au-
- 5 thorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to
- 6 charge a veteran's private health insurance provider
- 7 for hospital care and medical services furnished by

- the Department for a service-connected disability;
  and
- (2) the Department of Veterans Affairs should
  acknowledge its responsibility for financing the
  health care of veterans with service-connected disabilities and combat wounds.

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