



HR0267

LRB096 12269 GRL 25072 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are the longest combat operations involving United States soldiers since the Vietnam War; and

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WHEREAS, The length of these conflicts, along with what service members do during the war, the politics around the war, where the war is fought, and the type of enemy they face, all increase the chance of soldiers acquiring post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other mental health problems resulting from their service; and

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WHEREAS, About 19% of service members from Iraq and about 11% of service members from Afghanistan have a mental health problem; about 1 out of every 3 (35%) service members from Iraq were seen in a VA hospital for a mental health visit within a year of their return; and

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WHEREAS, Existing health benefits programs from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs require soldiers to go to a VA hospital for mental health treatment, curtailing their ability to see local doctors for their problems; and

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WHEREAS, Enabling veterans to freely choose their health care provider is of great importance to the safety and welfare

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1 of these brave men and women; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
4 urge the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to  
5 provide health benefits programs that pay for services from  
6 local mental health providers; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs to educate mental health providers on  
9 post-traumatic stress disorders in order to broaden the base of  
10 qualified mental health professionals that can help treat our  
11 nation's soldiers; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
13 presented to President Barack Obama and Eric K. Shinseki,  
14 Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.