

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Garcia

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ENSURE  
FULL MANDATORY FUNDING FOR VETERANS' HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND  
TO RECOGNIZE THE HEALTH CARE OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES  
TO THE COUNTRY'S VETERANS.

WHEREAS, the mission and motto of the United States  
department of veterans affairs is "to care for him who has  
borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan"; and

WHEREAS, President George Washington stated, "The  
willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in  
any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly  
proportionate to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars  
were treated and appreciated by their country"; and

WHEREAS, whenever the United States military has been  
called upon to send forces into harm's way, all who become

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1 soldiers, our sons and daughters alike, have proudly answered  
2 the call; and

3 WHEREAS, we, as citizens of the United States, have  
4 promised our troops, through military enlistment contracts,  
5 comprehensive, quality health care for those veterans honorably  
6 discharged from the United States armed forces, past, present  
7 and future; and

8 WHEREAS, while the legislators and legislative bodies of  
9 our government at all levels have recognized the importance of  
10 supporting those who serve the United States, legislation  
11 itself has fallen short of meeting the health care needs of our  
12 veterans; and the current discretionary funding mechanisms for  
13 veterans' health care are beset by numerous flaws, preventing  
14 many veterans from receiving the quality health care they  
15 earned and deserve; and

16 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2006, the United States senate voted  
17 against adopting mandatory funding for veterans' health care  
18 services that would have ensured mandatory funding for  
19 veterans' health care needs; and

20 WHEREAS, a government accountability office report issued  
21 in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources experienced by the  
22 veterans health administration and its understaffed workforce  
23 as they attempt to process an increasing backlog of veterans'  
24 claims; and

25 WHEREAS, a former department of veterans affairs

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1 secretary, Anthony Principi, has publicly stated that the  
2 department of veterans affairs has been struggling to provide  
3 promised health care services to the rapidly rising number of  
4 veterans requiring health care services;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
7 delegation be urged to ensure that health care obligations for  
8 veterans be recognized; that the New Mexico congressional  
9 delegation ensure that legislation be introduced into the  
10 United States house of representatives and the United States  
11 senate proposing full funding for veterans' health care; and  
12 that legislation ensuring full mandatory funding for veterans'  
13 health care services be approved by both houses of congress and  
14 sent to the president for signing; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that full mandatory funding of  
16 veterans' services be supported and that the great sacrifice  
17 made for all Americans by those who enter the armed services of  
18 the United States be recognized; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional  
21 delegation, the president of the United States and the  
22 secretary of the United States department of veterans affairs.