

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO FUND VETERANS' HEALTH CARE SERVICES FULLY.

WHEREAS, the federal department of veterans affairs' mission and motto 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, including sons and daughters of our great state, they have proudly answered the call; and

WHEREAS, we, as United States citizens, have promised our troops through military enlistment contracts comprehensive, quality accessible health care for those veterans honorably discharged from the United States military, past, present and future; and

WHEREAS, although the legislative bodies of our government at all levels have recognized the importance of supporting those who serve our great country, legislation itself has fallen short of meeting the health care needs of

our veterans. The current discretionary funding mechanisms for veterans' health care is beset by numerous flaws, preventing many veterans from receiving the quality health care they earned and deserve; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2006, the United States senate voted down mandatory funding for veterans' health care services that would have insured mandatory funding for our veterans' health care needs; and

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

WHEREAS, Anthony Principi, former federal secretary of veterans affairs, has publicly stated that the department of veterans affairs has been struggling to provide promised health care services to the rapidly rising number of veterans requiring health care services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that its members, as proud citizens of this great nation, fully support mandatory funding for veterans' health care services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States house of representatives and the United States senate be requested to ensure that the health care obligations to our veterans be

recognized and that legislation be introduced and passed for signing by the president of the United States to guarantee full mandatory funding of veterans' health care services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the president of the United States and to the members of New Mexico's congressional delegation.