

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 226

Expressing the sense of Congress concerning funding for health care services  
for veterans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 1999

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

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress concerning funding for  
health care services for veterans.

Whereas veterans throughout the United States in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care priority group designated as “priority group 7” have received notices from the Department of Veterans Affairs that, due to funding shortfalls, the Veterans Health Administration may be unable to provide those veterans with health care services in the future;

Whereas the income threshold for designation as a priority group 7 veteran (that is, having an annual income of over \$22,351 for a single person and assets of over \$50,000) is not so high that an individual in that priority group could be considered to be otherwise capable of paying the full cost of needed health care services;

Whereas the Nation must remain committed to providing first-rate health care services to veterans who joined the Armed Forces with the understanding that their future health needs would be met by a grateful Nation;

Whereas leaders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of America, Catholic War Veterans, and other distinguished veterans service organizations have expressed deep concern over the serious funding shortages that are compromising the level and quality of health care being delivered to the Nation's veterans by the Veterans Health Administration;

Whereas veterans have held over 130 rallies across the United States to demonstrate their concern in the deterioration of the Veterans Health Administration's health care system;

Whereas the level of funding for the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs has been inadequate to meet the pressing medical needs of America's veterans; and

Whereas, as one example of the funding shortfalls affecting the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system, the Veterans Integrated Service Network Number 3 (VISN3), which serves veterans in New Jersey and New York, experienced a budget shortfall of \$61,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 alone: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring),*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This resolution may be cited as the “Veterans Health  
3 Fairness Resolution”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS ON HEALTH CARE**  
5 **SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

6 Congress—

7 (1) affirms its fundamental belief that all vet-  
8 erans enrolled in the national enrollment system of  
9 the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those  
10 in the priority group designated as “priority group  
11 7”, have earned the right to secure, quality health  
12 care services from the Veterans Health Administra-  
13 tion of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

14 (2) urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs not  
15 to deny health care services to veterans in the pri-  
16 ority group designated as “priority group 7” and as-  
17 serts that veterans in that priority group should  
18 have their enrollment renewed every year.

19 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING PRESIDENT’S**  
20 **BUDGET FOR VA HEALTH CARE.**

21 (a) It is the sense of Congress that the President’s  
22 budget for VA health care for fiscal year 2001 and fiscal  
23 years thereafter should include the amounts needed to en-  
24 sure that all veterans, including veterans in priority group  
25 7, are able to benefit from the broad array of VA health

1 care services, including preventive care, primary care, and  
2 inpatient and outpatient services.

3 (b) In subsection (a), the term “VA health care”  
4 means health care delivered by the Veterans Health Ad-  
5 ministration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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