

LBDC(P) 09-10-07

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) 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 ever been called upon to send forces into harm's way, including sons and daughters of our great State of New York, they have proudly answered the call; and

WHEREAS, We, as citizens of the United States of America, have promised our troops through recruiters and recruiting brochures comprehensive quality accessible healthcare for those eligible veterans honorably discharged from the United States military past, present and future; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body has recognized the importance of supporting those who serve our great country; the current discretionary funding mechanisms for veterans healthcare is beset by numerous flaws preventing many veterans from receiving the quality healthcare they earned and deserve; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2006, the United States Senate voted down mandatory funding for veterans' healthcare services (Ref: Stabenow Amendment No. 3141), which would have insured mandatory funding for our veterans' healthcare needs (YEA 46/NAY 54); and

WHEREAS, A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources experienced by the Veterans Administration and its understaffed workforce as they attempt to process an increasing backlog of our veterans' claims; and

WHEREAS, Former Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi has publicly stated the Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide promised healthcare services to the rapidly rising number of veterans requiring healthcare services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to urge the New York State Congressional delegation to fully support mandated funding for veterans' healthcare services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to ensure that these healthcare obligations to our veterans be recognized and legislation be introduced and passed for signing by the President of the United States of America to guarantee full mandatory funding of veterans' healthcare services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Congress of the United States from the State of New York.

RESOLEG

SHORT TITLE: Urging the New York State Congressional delegation to fully support mandated funding for veterans' healthcare services

BLURB: Veterans' healthcare-funding