



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
Governor

House Joint Memorial 18

February 26, 2007

Mr. Gene Simes  
Operation Firing For Effect  
P.O. Box 77303  
Rochester, NY 14617

Dear Mr. Simes:

Thank you for affording me an opportunity to weigh in on an important issue with which you are involved. Barbara Wright, Secretary for *Operation Firing for Effect*, contacted my office regarding your efforts toward mandatory funding of veterans' healthcare – a change from discretionary funding.

During the 2005 Legislative Session, House Joint Memorial 18 (HJM 18) was adopted by both the House and Senate and filed with the Oregon Secretary of State. Please find a copy of HJM 18 from the 2005 session enclosed. A similar HJM has been discussed and may be introduced for the 2007 Legislative Assembly's consideration.

Veterans' organizations have long fought for mandatory healthcare funding to ensure those who give a portion of their lives in service to their country receive the healthcare they so richly deserve and often desperately need. I extend my hope that veterans across this nation will receive the healthcare they need, and deserve, as a result of mandatory healthcare funding and I will continue to support this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore R. Kulongoski".

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
Governor

TRK:pb:dps  
Enclosure

Enrolled

## House Joint Memorial 18

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the future of our nation and the American way of life depends on this nation's success in defending against its enemies at home and abroad; and

Whereas the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, the reserve components and the National Guard of each state have performed admirably and bravely in defense of this nation; and

Whereas a grateful nation cares for and bestows benefits upon its brave veterans to whom this nation owes its present prosperity and continued existence; and

Whereas veterans' benefits include education, health care, pensions and disability payments; and Whereas George Washington, first President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, is reported to have said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation"; and

Whereas the 2004 edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" states that veterans are enrolled in the Department of Veterans' Affairs health care system only to the extent that Congressional appropriations allow; and

Whereas the provision of veterans' health care is exceedingly important to veterans and their families or survivors; and

Whereas the provision of payments to disabled veterans is among the most solemn responsibilities of the American people; and

Whereas federal spending on veterans' health care is discretionary rather than direct; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to change spending on veterans' health care from discretionary spending funded by annual appropriations to direct spending funded by mandated appropriations.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.



Adopted by House May 20, 2005

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate July 1, 2005

President of Senate

Mr. Thomas S. ...  
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Respectfully,  
*Therese R. Kuslongadi*  
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Governor