

1997 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 401

Offered January 8, 1997

Prefiled December 19, 1996

Memorializing the Congress of the United States to authorize and fund the construction of a veterans' medical facility in Northern Virginia.

Patron—Puller

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, because of the large number of federal military installations and contracting industries located in the Commonwealth, over 725,000 veterans of the armed services now live in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, approximately 97,000 veterans of Operation Desert Storm now reside in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, medical facilities for veterans are now located in Salem, Hampton, Richmond, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Washington, D. C., and Baltimore, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the health of many veterans is declining due to advancing age and health conditions associated with their service in the military; and

WHEREAS, travel to available veterans' medical facilities is difficult and inconvenient for many veterans who live in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 220,000 veterans live within a 50-mile radius of a Northern Virginia site proposed for a veterans' medical facility; and

WHEREAS, construction of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Northern Virginia has been authorized by the federal government, but has never been funded; and

WHEREAS, such a clinic is urgently needed, and a suitable facility is now available for lease from a willing vendor; and

WHEREAS, similar outpatient clinics have demonstrated their cost-effectiveness by releasing in-patient beds at other facilities, freeing medical and technical personnel for other duties, and accelerating recovery time by keeping patients close to home; and

WHEREAS, a resolution supporting such a facility was adopted at the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1996; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby urge the Congress of the United States to authorize and fund the establishment of a veterans' medical outpatient clinic in Northern Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

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