

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16
 2 INTRODUCED BY Gowan Russell Yellowtail Whalen
 3 William J. Williams Nisbet Hardaway
 4 NATIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING A CHANGE

6 IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' REGULATION
 7 RESTRICTING NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS' USE OF CONTRACT HEALTH
 8 SERVICES.

10 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service was established under
 11 federal law to provide a trust service to Montana's tribal
 12 governments and its Native American population; and

13 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service operates only three
 14 hospitals on Montana reservations and contracts with private
 15 or public hospitals to provide services to Native Americans
 16 on Montana's other reservations; and

17 WHEREAS, a Department of Health and Human Services'
 18 regulation designates the Indian Health Service as the payor
 19 of last resort and will not authorize payment for contract
 20 health services if a Native American is eligible for
 21 alternate resources; and

22 WHEREAS, "alternate resources" includes the health care
 23 services offered by the Veterans Benefits Administration;
 24 and

25 WHEREAS, this regulation forces many Native American

1 veterans to seek medical care from the Veterans Benefits
 2 Administration; and

3 WHEREAS, the Veterans Benefits Administration operates
 4 only two medical facilities in the entire state; and

5 WHEREAS, this imposes a severe hardship on Native
 6 American veterans who are forced to travel long distances to
 7 receive medical care and on Native American families who
 8 traditionally accompany a family member to a medical
 9 facility and remain during the family member's stay; and

10 WHEREAS, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council passed
 11 Resolution Number 38-91 supporting a change in the
 12 Department of Health and Human Services' regulation
 13 regarding health care services for Native American veterans.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 16 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

17 (1) That the Montana Legislature support the Blackfeet
 18 Tribal Business Council in its efforts to seek quality
 19 health care delivery for all Native American veterans.

20 (2) That the Montana Legislature support a change in
 21 the Department of Health and Human Services' regulation to
 22 allow Native American veterans the option of using contract
 23 health services instead of veterans' health services.

24 (3) That the Chief Clerk of the House of
 25 Representatives send a copy of this resolution to the



LC 1475/01

1 Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, to each member of the
2 Montana Congressional Delegation, to the Secretary of the
3 United States Department of Health and Human Services, and
4 to the United States Senate Select Committee on Indian
5 Affairs.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMM. ON HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16
2 INTRODUCED BY *Gerrard Russell Yellowtail Whalen*
3 *Carl Smith*
4 JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
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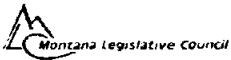
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SECOND READING
HJR 16

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House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

INTRODUCED BY *Senators: Russell, Yellowtail, Whalen, Carlsmith, Dair, Nisbet, Hardaway, Walker, Vep, Sherman, Schye*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING A CHANGE

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' REGULATION RESTRICTING NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS' USE OF CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service was established under federal law to provide a trust service to Montana's tribal governments and its Native American population; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service operates only three hospitals on Montana reservations and contracts with private or public hospitals to provide services to Native Americans on Montana's other reservations; and

WHEREAS, a Department of Health and Human Services' regulation designates the Indian Health Service as the payor of last resort and will not authorize payment for contract health services if a Native American is eligible for alternate resources; and

WHEREAS, "alternate resources" includes the health care services offered by the Veterans Benefits Administration; and

WHEREAS, this regulation forces many Native American

veterans to seek medical care from the Veterans Benefits Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Benefits Administration operates only two medical facilities in the entire state; and

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-End-

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

2 INTRODUCED BY GERVAIS, RUSSELL, YELLOWTAIL, WHALEN,
3 STRIZICH, KILPATRICK, PAVLOVICH, DAILY, STICKNEY, NISBET,
4 HARDING, NATHE, WILLIAMS, GAGE, PINSONEAULT, SCHYE

5
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7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING A CHANGE
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