

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2**

INTRODUCED BY PAVLOVICH

3  
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ESTABLISH AN OUTPATIENT  
6 MEDICAL CLINIC AT THE MONTANA VETERANS' HOME IN COLUMBIA FALLS.

8 WHEREAS, Columbia Falls and the Flathead Valley are central to Flathead, Sanders, Lake, and  
9 Lincoln Counties, which cover an area of 13,000 square miles; and

10 WHEREAS, the population in this area has increased 9% from the 1980 census to the 1990 census  
11 and has experienced a rapid increase in population since 1990;

12 WHEREAS, the veteran population in this area is aging and is becoming more in need of medical  
13 attention; and

14 WHEREAS, the only Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility available to veterans is Fort  
15 Harrison, Montana, which is 200 miles from Kalispell; and

16 WHEREAS, the winters of this area are 5 months long with occasional subzero temperatures and  
17 frequent snowfall; and

18 WHEREAS, to travel to Fort Harrison from the Flathead Valley requires travel over either McDonald  
19 Pass, elevation 6,320 feet, or Morris Pass, elevation 5,380 feet; and

20 WHEREAS, commercial bus travel can take as long as 15 hours and entails overnight stays, and  
21 there is no direct air or rail travel available; and

22 WHEREAS, the Montana Veterans' Home in Columbia Falls has administrative and computer linkage  
23 to the State of Montana.

24 WHEREAS, an outpatient medical clinic could be established at the Montana Veterans' Home in  
25 Great Falls, and thereby further the intent of the Legislature.

26 WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Lake and Flathead Counties endorse an outpatient medical  
27 clinic.

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



1 That Montana's Congressional Delegation be urged to request that the Department of Veterans  
2 Affairs establish an outpatient medical clinic in conjunction with the Montana Veterans' Home in Columbia  
3 Falls and that the clinic be fully funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs and be open to all eligible  
4 veterans on a full-time basis.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the  
6 President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, each member of  
7 Montana's Congressional Delegation, the presiding officers of the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the  
8 United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and the Governor of the State of Montana.

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