

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

2 INTRODUCED BY PAVLOVICH

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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.

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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 Marias Pass, elevation 5,280 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 Fort Harrison; and

24 WHEREAS, an outpatient medical clinic could be established at the Montana Veterans' Home in  
25 Columbia Falls that would be central to northwestern Montana; and

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:

