

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

2 INTRODUCED BY PAVLOVICH

3  
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING HOME FACILITIES AT THE  
6 VETERANS' CENTER AT FORT HARRISON, MONTANA.

7  
8 WHEREAS, the population of elderly citizens of the United States is growing steadily, and this  
9 growth is reflected in the increased number of aged veterans of military service; and

10 WHEREAS, the State of Montana sent more of its citizens per capita into military service during  
11 World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War than any other state; and

12 WHEREAS, the need for care for elderly citizens, including veterans, is an ever more urgent concern  
13 that is particularly manifested in the increasing need for nursing home beds among veterans because of  
14 their advancing age; and

15 WHEREAS, the 26 nursing home beds in the Veterans' Center at Miles City are the only federal  
16 veterans' nursing home beds available in Montana to answer the needs of the 101,544 veterans who live  
17 in Montana; and

18 WHEREAS, there are no other federal veterans' nursing home bed facilities within 500 miles of the  
19 Veterans' Center at Fort Harrison, Montana; and

20 WHEREAS, this deplorable lack of federal nursing home beds has been disregarded by federal  
21 officials for the past 35 years, and the situation is acute and costly; and

22 WHEREAS, responsible federal officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs have ignored the need  
23 for additional nursing home beds and have delayed the commencement of construction at the Veterans'  
24 Center at Fort Harrison, Montana, of nursing home facilities, which construction was first scheduled to  
25 begin in 1979 and has since been postponed approximately seven times, with the latest target date for  
26 construction now set for 1999, a date still dependent on ongoing analysis; and

27 WHEREAS, 50% of Montana's veterans reside within 150 miles of the Veterans' Center at Fort  
28 Harrison, Montana, making it the ideal and practical central location for the nursing home.

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

1 STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That Montana's Congressional Delegation be urged to press for immediate construction of adequate  
3 nursing home facilities adjacent to the Veterans' Center at Fort Harrison, Montana, in order that Montana's  
4 battle-scarred and disabled veterans will not be forced to sell their homes and exhaust their savings to pay  
5 out-of-pocket costs for care that they are entitled to receive from the government that they served.

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

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APPROVED BY COMM. ON  
HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING

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29 ~~Harrison, Montana, making it the ideal and practical central location for the nursing home~~ A  
30 RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE MADE TO MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND TO THE

1 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONCERNING THE LOCATION OF ANY FUTURE FEDERAL  
2 NURSING HOME FACILITY; AND

3 WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ALSO PROVIDES NURSING HOME  
4 SERVICES THROUGH A COMMUNITY NURSING HOME PROGRAM IN WHICH VETERANS ARE ENTITLED  
5 TO NURSING HOME SERVICES IN LOCAL PRIVATE NURSING HOMES THROUGH CONTRACTS WITH THE  
6 VETERANS ADMINISTRATION; AND

7 WHEREAS, THE COMMUNITY NURSING HOME PROGRAM NORMALLY PROVIDES PERMANENT  
8 NURSING CARE FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES AND 6 MONTHS OF CARE  
9 FOR VETERANS WITH NONSERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES; AND

10 WHEREAS, BECAUSE OF BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
11 NOW PROVIDES ONLY 1 MONTH OF CARE FOR VETERANS WITH NONSERVICE-CONNECTED  
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