

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

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.

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.

10

-END-

APPROVED BY COMM. ON
HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING

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5 MONTANA REQUESTING IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING HOME FACILITIES AT THE
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7 ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY NURSING HOME PROGRAM.

8

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

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12 World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War than any other state; and

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

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22 officials for the past 35 years, and the situation is acute and costly; and

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

28 WHEREAS, 50% of Montana's veterans reside within 150 miles of the Veterans' Center at Fort
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
12 DISABILITIES.

13

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

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

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE GOVERNOR BE URGED TO APPOINT A NONPARTISAN
21 COMMITTEE OF FIVE INDIVIDUALS TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF THE FUTURE LOCATION OF ANY
22 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NURSING HOME FACILITY AND TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION
23 TO MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
24 CONCERNING THE LOCATION OF ANY FUTURE FACILITY.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BE URGED TO
26 PRESS FOR FULL FUNDING OF CONTRACT NURSING HOME SERVICES FOR MONTANA VETERANS
27 ENTITLED TO CONTRACT NURSING HOME SERVICES.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION URGE THE
29 EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNITY NURSING HOME PROGRAM TO ALLOW MONTANA VETERANS TO BE
30 SERVED IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND AS A COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE IMMEDIATE

1 CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL VETERANS' NURSING HOMES.

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

6 -END-

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

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5 MONTANA REQUESTING IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING HOME FACILITIES AT THE
6 VETERANS' CENTER AT FORT HARRISON, MONTANA, OR AN EXPANSION OF THE VETERANS
7 ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY NURSING HOME PROGRAM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, 50% of Montana's veterans reside within 150 miles of the Veterans' Center at Fort
29 Harrison, Montana, making it the ideal and practical central location for the nursing home A
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14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
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17 nursing home facilities adjacent to the Veterans' Center at Fort Harrison, Montana, in order that Montana's
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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the
3 President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, each member of
4 Montana's Congressional Delegation, the presiding officers of the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the
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