

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 179

To express the sense of the Senate regarding ensuring quality healthcare
for our Nation's veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2001

Mr. BOND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate regarding ensuring
quality healthcare for our Nation's veterans.

Whereas President George W. Bush and the United States
Senate designated this week, November 11 through No-
vember 17, 2001, as National Veterans Awareness Week;

Whereas the United States owes a great debt of gratitude to
the veterans who have made untold sacrifices for our Na-
tion;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to provide qual-
ity healthcare to veterans who have served our Nation in
times of peace and war;

Whereas our Nation's Government has an obligation to en-
sure that veterans receive quality healthcare each and

every day of their lives and to protect them from abuse and neglect;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs has projected a significant increase in the demand for long-term healthcare for veterans over the next decade;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs has projected the number of veterans age 85 and older will increase threefold, reaching nearly 1.3 million by 2010;

Whereas the prevalence of chronic health conditions and disabilities increases markedly at advanced age;

Whereas the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act of 1999 required that the Department of Veterans Affairs provide long-term healthcare to eligible veterans;

Whereas President George W. Bush issued an executive order creating a Presidential Task Force to improve healthcare for veterans and military retirees;

Whereas the General Accounting Office has issued a report finding that the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot be assured that all veterans will receive care in private nursing facilities that meets the standards established by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the General Accounting Office has found that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to strengthen its oversight of veterans placed in private nursing facilities;

Whereas the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has reported since 1994 about issues that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to address to improve the care of veterans in private nursing facilities;

Whereas the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has reported that at least one veteran died

after being lost to the Department of Veterans Affairs oversight; and

Whereas the death of even one veteran due to substandard care is unacceptable: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the Senate urges the Secretary of the De-
3 partment of Veterans Affairs to work hand-in-hand
4 with the Secretary of the Department of Health and
5 Human Services and the Administrator for the Cen-
6 ters for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to improve
7 coordination among and between these agencies to
8 provide quality healthcare for the men and women
9 who have served in uniform, and specifically those
10 who require long-term care; and

11 (2) the President and the Secretary of Veterans
12 Affairs should act promptly and deliberately to pro-
13 tect veterans from the dangers of abuse and neglect
14 and to ensure that they receive the highest quality
15 of long-term healthcare.

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