

## House Concurrent Resolution No. 5056

By Representatives Ruff, Aday, Aurand, Ballard, Ballou, Barnes, Beggs, Benlon, Bethell, Boston, Burroughs, Campbell, Compton, Cook, Cox, Crow, Dahl, DeCastro, Dillmore, DiVita, Dreher, Edmonds, Faber, Feuerborn, Findley, Flaharty, Flora, Freeborn, Garner, Gatewood, Gilbert, Glasscock, Goering, Gordon, Grant, Hayzlett, Henderson, Henry, Hermes, Holmes, Horst, Howell, Huebert, Huff, Humerickhouse, Hutchins, Huy, Johnson, Kauffman, Kirk, Klein, Krehbiel, Kuetter, Landwehr, Lane, Larkin, Levinson, Light, Lightner, Lloyd, Loganbill, M. Long, P. Long, Loyd, Mason, Mayans, Mays, McClure, McCreary, McKinney, McLeland, Merrick, Miller, Minor, Jim Morrison, Judy Morrison, Myers, Neufeld, Newton, Nichols, Novascone, O'Brien, O'Neal, Osborne, Ostmeyer, Owens, Palmer, Patterson, Pauls, E. Peterson, J. Peterson, Phelps, Pottorff, L. Powell, T. Powell, Powers, Pyle, Ray, Reardon, Rehorn, Schwartz, Sharp, Showalter, Shriver, Shultz, Sloan, Spangler, Stone, Storm, Swenson, Tafanelli, Tanner, Thimesch, R. Toelkes, Tomlinson, Toplikar, Vickrey, Weber, Wells, Welshimer, Wilk, D. Williams, J. Williams, Wilson and Winn

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States to maintain needed medical services at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Leavenworth.

WHEREAS, The city of Leavenworth provided the land and considerable financial assistance to secure the establishment of the Western Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1884. In its early days it served as a home for "old soldiers". The home became a part of the Veterans Administration in 1930 as its mission changed from housing to provision of medical services to veterans of military service. Since World War II, the Center has served admirably the medical needs of an aging veteran population in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri, and with the reduction in availability of medical services at active military installations, the Center is providing increasingly medical care for active duty military personnel; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has combined the Leavenworth VA Medical Center with the Topeka VA Medical Center to form the VA Eastern Kansas unit which in turn is a part of a regional

1 organization containing Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in Kan-  
2 sas, Missouri and Illinois. The Leavenworth VA Medical Center has un-  
3 dergone cumulative budget reductions since fiscal year 1996 which other  
4 regional VA facilities have not faced, and while Department of Veterans  
5 Affairs information on future plans are not known, there is an ongoing  
6 insidious erosion of service capabilities at the Leavenworth VA Medical  
7 Center. This continues even though the Leavenworth VA Medical Center  
8 services nearly 35,000 active and retired military personnel and a sub-  
9 stantial number of veterans who have made their homes in the Leaven-  
10 worth community in order to use the facilities of Fort Leavenworth and  
11 the Leavenworth VA Medical Center: Now, therefore,

12 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*  
13 *the Senate concurring therein:* That we memorialize the Congress of  
14 the United States of the need to continue to provide the fine services  
15 which have been provided previously to our veterans at the Dwight D.  
16 Eisenhower Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Leaven-  
17 worth; and

18 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State provide an enrolled  
19 copy of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the  
20 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Director of  
21 the Department of Veterans Affairs and to each member of the Kansas  
22 congressional delegation.

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