

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6017

By Representatives Ruff, Kuether, 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, 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 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 and the Colmery-O'Neil Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Topeka.

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System is comprised of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Colmery-O'Neil Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Topeka, Kansas. The Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System offers significant inpatient and outpatient services with a focus on primary care, psychiatric treatment and extended care supported by nursing home care units and a domiciliary. The Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System's primary service area consists of 49 counties in Kansas and Missouri. The veteran population in these counties totals over 104,000. In fiscal year 2000, the Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System provided care to approximately 34,000 unique patients. The Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System has a long history of service to veterans; and

1 WHEREAS, The city of Leavenworth provided the land and consid-
2 erable financial assistance to secure the establishment of the Western
3 Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1884. In its
4 early days it served as a home for “old soldiers”. The home became a part
5 of the Veterans Administration in 1930 as its mission changed from hous-
6 ing to provision of medical services to veterans of military service. Since
7 World War II, the Center has served admirably the medical needs of an
8 aging veteran population in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri, and
9 with the reduction in availability of medical services at active military
10 installations, the Center is providing increasingly medical care for active
11 duty military personnel; and

12 WHEREAS, The Colmery-O’Neil Veterans Affairs Medical Center
13 was built in 1942 as an Army hospital. At the end of World War II, it was
14 the first Army hospital to be transferred to the Veterans Administration.
15 On January 11, 1946, it was officially dedicated as a Veterans Adminis-
16 tration Hospital and offered treatment to veterans with psychiatric ill-
17 nesses. The hospital has a long standing affiliation with the Karl Men-
18 ninger School of Psychiatry. Through the years, the medical center has
19 evolved into a comprehensive health care facility meeting the needs of
20 veterans who have served their country; and

21 WHEREAS, While Department of Veterans Affairs information on
22 future plans are not known, there is an ongoing insidious erosion of serv-
23 ice capabilities at these facilities. This continues even though nearly
24 35,000 active and retired military personnel and a substantial number of
25 veterans have made their homes in the Leavenworth community in order
26 to use the facilities of Fort Leavenworth and the Dwight D. Eisenhower
27 Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Now, therefore,

28 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kan-*
29 *sas:* That we memorialize the Congress of the United States of the need
30 to continue to provide the fine services which have been provided pre-
31 viously to our veterans at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Department of
32 Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Leavenworth and the Colmery-O’Neil
33 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Topeka; and

34 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Repre-
35 sentatives be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to
36 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
37 States House of Representatives, the Director of the Department of Vet-
38 erans Affairs and to each member of the Kansas congressional delegation.
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