

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6019

A RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States to provide necessary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

WHEREAS, As a result of having served in Operation Desert Storm in the Arabian Peninsula 11 years ago, 16% of the 700,000 troops who were stationed there have been awarded disability benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs—and these injuries resulted from hostilities that lasted only 100 hours; and

WHEREAS, The state of Kansas recently released the results of a health study of over 2,000 Kansas veterans who served during the first Gulf War. The study identified clear links between Gulf veterans' health problems and the time and places in which they served. Overall, 34% of Kansas veterans who served in Desert Shield or Desert Storm had symptoms of Gulf War illness; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, the Congress enacted Public Law 105-85 which requires the development and implementation of a medical tracking system for service members deployed overseas. Such requirements include an assessment of mental health and the drawing of blood to accurately record any changes in their medical condition during the course of their deployment; and

WHEREAS, As reported in an article by David Goldstein in the *Kansas City Star* on March 5, 2003, many of our troops currently in the Middle East have not received the testing required under Public Law 105-85; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives is concerned with the possibility that Kansas military personnel involved with Operation Iraqi Freedom could return home with similar illnesses as those of Desert Storm: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That the House urges the United States government to begin preparing now to address the health needs of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, including the administration of tests required under Public Law 105-85; and

Be it further resolved: That we believe it is the obligation of our national government to provide all necessary medical care and support for those injured or inflicted with illnesses in the defense of our nation and, anticipating additional costs associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom, urge the Congress of the United States to provide adequate funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation and to the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, Kansas Disabled Veterans, Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars and Kansas American Legion.

House Resolution No. 6019 was sponsored by Representatives Daniel J. Thimesch, Doug Mays, Dennis McKinney and Lee E. Tafanelli.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.