

Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Senators Correa (Chair), Berryhill, Calderon, Cannella, Lieu, Negrete McLeod, Rubio, and Runner)

May 25, 2011

Senate Joint Resolution No. 9—Relative to veterans’ health care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 9, as introduced, Committee on Veterans Affairs. Veterans’ health care.

This measure would urge Congress to require the United States Department of Veterans Affairs not abrogate the desires of President Lincoln to care for those most needy and to remember the promises made to WWII veterans.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, As President Lincoln declared, at the conclusion
2 of the Civil War, now is the time to care for those who have borne
3 the battle and their widows and orphans; and
4 WHEREAS, This statement was the foundation for the
5 establishment of the Veterans Administration (VA) and hospitals,
6 clinics, veterans’ homes, and other necessary facilities in various
7 states; and
8 WHEREAS, Many of the veterans who use the VA facilities
9 enlisted during World War II (WWII) and were promised
10 healthcare for the rest of their lives if they enlisted to serve in
11 WWII; and
12 WHEREAS, Congress has expressed its desire to reduce the
13 number of veterans who use VA facilities in Enrollment Priority
14 Groups 7 and 8. Priority 8 veterans have no service-connected or

1 annual incomes that exceed VA means; test thresholds and VA
2 “geographic income” thresholds that are set by family size; and

3 WHEREAS, Priority 7 veterans also do not have
4 service-connected disabilities and their incomes are above the
5 means-test thresholds. In essence, these veterans’ incomes or net
6 worth fall below the geographic index, but because they live in
7 high-cost areas, they struggle financially; and

8 WHEREAS, Despite President Lincoln’s direction for assisting
9 Civil War veterans and the promises provided to WWII enlistees,
10 it appears that Congress is ignoring the needs of those individuals
11 who have risked their lives and, in some instances, the livelihoods
12 with which they support their families; and

13 WHEREAS, Congress has chosen to ignore both these promises
14 given to veterans with limited incomes and the reality that the use
15 of VA facilities by Priority 7 and 8 veterans may be their only
16 means of medical support; and

17 WHEREAS, Countless veterans who may be categorized as
18 Priority 7 or 8 veterans are subsequently diagnosed with
19 posttraumatic stress disorder, yet they retain the same priority for
20 service; and

21 WHEREAS, It is anticipated that many veterans affected by the
22 congressional budget proposal may increase the already
23 overburdened numbers of homeless veterans who may need to be
24 cared for; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That Legislature of the State of California
27 respectfully recommends the Congress of the United States not
28 abrogate the desires of President Lincoln to care for those most
29 needy and to remember the promises made to WWII veterans; and
30 be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Congress of the United States establish a
32 clear and concise measure to clarify any previous laws affecting
33 veterans that are currently subject to legal challenges; and be it
34 further

35 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
37 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
38 Majority Leader of the Senate, to the minority leader of each house,

- 1 and to each Senator and Representative from California in the
- 2 Congress of the United States.

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