

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 20**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Kim**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Brough, and Chang)**  
(Coauthors: Senators Bates and Mendoza)

May 28, 2015

---

---

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 20—Relative to Veterans Affairs hospitals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 20, as introduced, Kim. Veterans Affairs hospitals.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to support and build a central Veterans Affairs hospital in Orange County.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Many service members returning home to Orange  
2 County face significant barriers to a successful transition back to  
3 civilian life; and

4 WHEREAS, Sixty-one percent of post-9/11 Orange County  
5 veterans reported difficulties adjusting to civilian life and needing  
6 time to figure out what to do after service in the military; and

7 WHEREAS, About one in five post-9/11 veterans in Orange  
8 County have considered suicide, and one in six developed a suicide  
9 plan, and among those Orange County veterans who considered  
10 or made a plan to commit suicide, about one-half did not seek help;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Orange County veterans have reported barriers,  
13 including not knowing where to access services, difficulty

1 scheduling appointments, and concerns about confidentiality and  
2 treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of post-9/11 veterans and 9  
4 percent of pre-9/11 veterans indicated severe physical health  
5 symptoms. In addition, post-9/11 veterans were more likely to  
6 screen positive for post-traumatic stress disorder and depression  
7 than pre-9/11 veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, One-half of all Orange County post-9/11 veterans  
9 reported their greatest needs as Veterans Affairs service assistance  
10 and health care assistance; and

11 WHEREAS, Only 24 percent of Orange County veterans  
12 reported that they could handle the challenges on their own, and  
13 their needs are not being met; and

14 WHEREAS, A considerable number of Orange County veterans  
15 are not receiving care for physical and psychological issues, and  
16 have a high rate of mental health concerns; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
18 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the  
19 United States to support and build a central Veterans Affairs  
20 Hospital in Orange County for the mental health care needs of  
21 local veterans; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
23 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
24 States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
25 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each Senator and  
26 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
27 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

O