

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 20

### Introduced by Assembly Member Kim

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Brough, ~~and Chang~~  
*Chang, Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla,*  
*Bonta, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu,*  
*Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier,*  
*Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto,*  
*Gipson, Gomez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden,*  
*Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low,*  
*Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin,*  
*Nazarian, Oberholte, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Ridley-Thomas,*  
*Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron,*  
*Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood*)

(Coauthors: Senators Bates, Huff, and Mendoza)

May 28, 2015

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 20, as amended, 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. Among those Orange County veterans who considered or  
10 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  
14 scheduling appointments, and concerns about confidentiality and  
15 treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of post-9/11 veterans and 9  
17 percent of pre-9/11 veterans indicated severe physical health  
18 symptoms. In addition, post-9/11 veterans were more likely to  
19 screen positive for post-traumatic stress disorder and depression  
20 than pre-9/11 veterans; and

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

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

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

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

35 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
36 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
37 States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
38 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each Senator and

- 1 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 2 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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