

1-1 By: Creighton S.C.R. No. 52
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed April 12, 2017; April 18, 2017, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border
 1-4 Security; May 1, 2017, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0;
 1-6 May 1, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10				
1-11			X	
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.C.R. No. 52 By: Lucio

1-17 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-18 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is charged
 1-19 with ensuring the health and well-being of the nation's veterans,
 1-20 but in recent years, its failure to adequately perform its mission
 1-21 has been the source of scandal; and

1-22 WHEREAS, In 2014, the United States Congress responded to
 1-23 unconscionable delays and denials of care at VA facilities by
 1-24 passing the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, which
 1-25 allows access to private medical care providers for veterans who
 1-26 have been waiting more than 30 days for an appointment or who live
 1-27 more than 40 miles from a VA facility; this law is set to expire in
 1-28 2017; and

1-29 WHEREAS, By expanding the reforms of the Veterans Choice Act,
 1-30 Congress can improve the VA system, broadening access to timely
 1-31 health care while offering greater choice and flexibility to every
 1-32 eligible veteran; experts have proposed allowing access to walk-in
 1-33 clinics without preauthorization or copayment, expanding VA
 1-34 pharmacy hours and telemedicine, and extending the Veterans Choice
 1-35 Card program to permit all qualified veterans to see the doctor of
 1-36 their choice; in addition, those who have studied the system
 1-37 carefully encourage best-practices peer review for VA facilities;
 1-38 and

1-39 WHEREAS, Our nation's veterans have made enormous sacrifices
 1-40 to guarantee our freedoms, and although the nation can never fully
 1-41 repay its debt of gratitude, it can and should ensure timely access
 1-42 to the highest quality of medical care; now, therefore, be it

1-43 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
 1-44 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact
 1-45 legislation to ensure that all veterans receive in a timely manner
 1-46 the level of medical care that they have earned and that they so
 1-47 richly deserve; and, be it further

1-48 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
 1-49 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
 1-50 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
 1-51 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
 1-52 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
 1-53 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
 1-54 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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