



1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 42

March 25, 1997 – Introduced by Representatives ZUKOWSKI, MUSSER, RYBA, KELSO, KREIBICH, HANDRICK, DOBYNS, FREESE, STASKUNAS, HOVEN, GRONEMUS, LORGE, PLOUFF, AINSWORTH, GOETSCH, OWENS, LADWIG, HASENOHRL, HARSDORF, BOYLE, HAHN, WALKER, BRANDEMUEHL, GARD, GUNDERSON and SYKORA, cosponsored by Senators FITZGERALD, BRESKE, WELCH, CLAUSING, ROSENZWEIG, PLACHE, WIRCH, PANZER and ZIEN. Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to fully fund the federal share of state
2 veterans homes construction projects.

3 Whereas, the state veterans homes were founded for Civil War veterans in the
4 late 1800's and have served veterans for over 100 years; and

5 Whereas, under the provisions of Title 38 of the United States Code, the U.S.
6 Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to make aid payments to states
7 maintaining state veterans homes, subject to the provisions of the Code of Federal
8 Regulations, 38 CFR 18.1 through 18.3; and

9 Whereas, there are 87 state veterans home care facilities in 42 states
10 throughout the United States, with more being added annually; and

11 Whereas, the state veterans homes program has proven to be a cost-effective
12 provider of quality care services to the nation's veterans who require domiciliary,
13 nursing home and hospital care; and

14 Whereas, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs promotes the care and
15 treatment of veterans in state veterans homes as a means to attain the goal of
16 developing and maintaining the highest possible quality of patient care for eligible
17 veterans; and

1 Whereas, the state veterans homes construction grant program is funded at
2 65% of total cost; and

3 Whereas, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has not kept pace with state
4 veterans homes applications for new construction projects. Currently, an unfunded
5 balance of over \$200,000,000 exists; and

6 Whereas, the state veterans homes program is recognized as the lowest cost
7 alternative among all nursing care alternatives used by the U.S. Department of
8 Veterans Affairs; and

9 Whereas, given the growing long-term health care needs of older veterans, the
10 state veterans homes program will continue to be a vital health care provider and the
11 lowest cost alternative for veterans needing long-term nursing care; now, therefore,
12 be it

13 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
14 Wisconsin legislature urge Congress to appropriate the money necessary to fully
15 fund the federal share of state veterans homes construction project requests for fiscal
16 year 1998; and, be it further

17 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
18 resolution to the President of the United States, to the secretary of the U.S.
19 Department of Veterans Affairs and to each member of this state's congressional
20 delegation.

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(END)