

HR 20 – AS INTRODUCED

2014 SESSION

14-2397
05/06

HOUSE RESOLUTION **20**

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to support a statewide veterans' medical identification card.

SPONSORS: Rep. Theberge, Coos 3; Rep. Massimilla, Graf 1; Rep. Baldasaro, Rock 5;
Rep. Priestley, Rock 8; Rep. Todd Smith, Merr 24; Rep. C. Sweeney, Sull 8;
Rep. Rideout, Coos 7; Rep. Graham, Hills 7

COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

ANALYSIS

This resolution urges Congress to support a statewide veterans' medical identification card.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to support a statewide veterans' medical identification card.

1 Whereas, countless men and women have proudly served this nation honorably; and

2 Whereas, many of our citizens are deeply concerned about access to quality health care for
3 veterans; and

4 Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) "scores" the spending liabilities of leases,
5 commonly used for Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs); and

6 Whereas, not only is there a critical lack of CBOCs in rural areas, but existing CBOCs cannot
7 meet the acute care needed by veterans; and

8 Whereas, New Hampshire is one of only 3 states (New Hampshire, Hawaii, and Arkansas) that
9 do not have a full-service hospital; and

10 Whereas, a full-service veteran's hospital is cost-prohibitive; and

11 Whereas, the distances traveled on rural roads and during inclement weather conditions to a
12 veterans' facility are not practical; and

13 Whereas, local hospitals have the personnel and equipment to best serve veterans; and

14 Whereas, a veterans' medical identification card that would enable veterans to use their local
15 hospitals and clinics is critically needed by veterans, could be developed in collaboration with the
16 Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), and would allow the VA to cost-effectively deliver better critical
17 care and services to veterans in states that do not have a full-service hospital; and

18 Whereas, it is now more important than ever to ensure that the VA's budget is protected during
19 Washington's increasingly protracted fiscal wars; and

20 Whereas, there is strong, bipartisan Congressional support to authorize a veterans' medical
21 identification card as part of the Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 (HR 813 and S 932);
22 and

23 Whereas, the New Hampshire house of representatives supports implementation of a pilot
24 program in New Hampshire, funded by the VA, that would enable veterans to use local hospitals and
25 clinics with a statewide veterans' medical identification card; now, therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives:

27 That the New Hampshire house of representatives urges the New Hampshire congressional
28 delegation to submit legislation to Congress establishing a pilot program in New Hampshire that
29 would enable New Hampshire veterans to use local hospitals and clinics with a statewide veterans
30 medical identification card, and

31 That the clerk of the house of representatives send a copy of this resolution both by email and by
32 first class mail to the state office of each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.