

A RESOLUTION urging the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Kentucky's United States Congressional delegation to take the appropriate steps to get the approval and funding necessary for the construction of a veterans center in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the Commonwealth, its sons and daughters have answered the nation's call to military service and have traversed the globe in defense of this great country; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's veterans deserve all of the respect and admiration for their service that can be mustered, and in doing so the Commonwealth has an obligation to ensure access to the best quality healthcare available; and

WHEREAS, an integrated network of veterans nursing homes spread evenly throughout the state would be the best way to provide care to the Commonwealth's aging veteran population; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs operates three veterans centers in Kentucky located in Wilmore, Hazard, and Hanson, with a fourth under construction in Radcliff; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has limited the number of veterans center beds in Kentucky to 818. With the completion of the Radcliff Veterans Center, Kentucky will have 681 beds available, leaving an allocation of 137 beds that could be offered by a veterans center in Bowling Green; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 22,000 veterans that live near Bowling Green due to its location on Interstate 65 between Fort Knox and Fort Campbell, with an additional estimated 22,000 veterans in the surrounding area, demonstrating a clear need for an additional veterans center; and

WHEREAS, a veterans center in Bowling Green would achieve this goal by ensuring that veterans and their families in Kentucky will be located within a reasonable distance to a veterans center;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The Senate does hereby urge the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Kentucky's United States Congressional delegation to take necessary actions to get the approval and funding for the construction of a veterans center in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to Governor Steve Beshear, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Commissioner Heather French Henry, 1111B Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Senate Majority Leader-Elect Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Rand Paul, 124 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Representative Andy Barr, 1432 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Thomas Massie, 314 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Brett Guthrie, 308 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Harold Rogers, 2406 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative John Yarmuth, 403 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and Representative Edward Whitfield, 2184 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.