

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. C. R. No. 42

Representatives Demetriou, Willis

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge Congress to honor the sacrifices of our nation's veterans by supporting their access to quality and timely health care by passing the Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act, referred to as the Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025 (S. 275, H.R. 740).

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Ohio is home to over 700,000 veterans, giving it the sixth-largest veteran population of any state; and

WHEREAS, The United States' post-9/11 wars have carried a heavy price, including an estimated 1.1 million veterans who have developed service-connected disabilities, and over \$6.4 trillion spent; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, Ohio had the fifth-highest number of veteran suicides in the nation with 254 lives lost and a suicide rate of 37.6 per 100,000 veterans, which was far above the national suicide rate of 14.2 per 100,000 people and Ohio's total suicide rate of 14.6 per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, The VA MISSION Act of 2018 established the Veterans Community Care Program to give veterans greater health care choice by revising access standards and eligibility

criteria for receiving community care services; and 21

WHEREAS, Forty percent of veterans' health care was 22
received in community care settings in Fiscal Year 2025, 23
accounting for only twenty-six percent of the Veterans Health 24
Administration's budget, thereby saving the Department of 25
Veterans Affairs (VA) money; and 26

WHEREAS, The VA decommissioned its MISSION Act website in 27
2021 and its Office of Community Care in 2022, thereby 28
undermining the purpose of the VA MISSION Act of 2018; and 29

WHEREAS, Records obtained via Freedom of Information Act 30
request show the VA has manipulated wait times to deny eligible 31
veterans access to community care; and 32

WHEREAS, The VA issued internal guidance directing 33
schedulers to attempt to persuade veterans not to use community 34
care options; and 35

WHEREAS, The Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025 (S. 275, H.R. 36
740) codifies the existing community care access standards that 37
were enacted in 2019 through the VA MISSION Act of 2018, 38
strengthens the Veterans Community Care Program, provides 39
veterans with greater certainty about their health care options, 40
expands mental health and substance use treatment access, and 41
overall helps veterans seek the care that best meets their 42
needs; now therefore be it 43

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 136th General 44
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge Congress to pass the 45
Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025 (S. 275, H.R. 740); and be it 46
further 47

RESOLVED, That we call upon the President and Congress to 48
continue to follow through on the progress made since the 49
passage of the VA MISSION Act of 2018, which enjoyed 50
overwhelming bipartisan support and established the VA's Veteran 51

Community Care Program; and be it further 52

RESOLVED, That we call upon the Veterans Health 53
Administration to reinstate the Office of Community Care to once 54
again have a dedicated office overseeing the administration of 55
community care services; and be it further 56

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our support of our military 57
forces who have sworn to protect and defend our nation's freedom 58
and prosperity; and be it further 59

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 60
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 61
President of the United States, the President of the United 62
States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of 63
Representatives, each member of Ohio's Congressional delegation, 64
and to the news media of Ohio, with the request that this 65
resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record. 66