

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 159

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 1997

By Assemblyman AZZOLINA

1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION calling upon the United States Congress to pass  
2 H.R.1156, "The Veterans Medical Care Equity Act of 1997."

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4 WHEREAS, H.R.1156, "The Veterans Medical Care Equity Act of 1997,"  
5 introduced by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and 13 other members  
6 of Congress from New Jersey and New York, requires the United States  
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs to equitably fund federal veterans medical  
8 care programs; and

9 WHEREAS, In so doing, H.R.1156 would maintain funding levels for New  
10 Jersey's Lyons and East Orange veterans hospitals, whose functions the  
11 federal Department of Veterans Affairs wants to consolidate; and

12 WHEREAS, Congressman Frelinghuysen, a Vietnam veteran, was an early critic  
13 of the department's consolidation proposal and its plan to shift funding from  
14 northeastern states to southern and western states; and

15 WHEREAS, If the federal department's plan is effectuated, veterans service  
16 networks in the Northeast and Midwest might suffer up to 15% funding  
17 cuts; and

18 WHEREAS, H.R.1156 would require the federal Department of Veterans  
19 Affairs to fund veterans service networks in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 at  
20 a level equal to or greater than the amount received in fiscal year 1996; and

21 WHEREAS, H.R.1156 further provides that beginning in fiscal year 2000 and  
22 thereafter, veterans service networks would receive funding by a formula  
23 based on both the number of veterans residing in the geographic area of  
24 that service network and the medical services and administrative cost per  
25 veteran as determined by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, H.R.1156 is a sound and sensible proposal to fund this nation's  
28 veterans medical care programs; now, therefore,

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30 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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32 1. This House calls upon the United States Congress to pass H.R.1156,  
33 "The Veterans Medical Care Equity Act of 1997," which requires the United  
34 States Secretary of Veterans Affairs to equitably fund federal veterans medical  
35 care programs and which maintains funding levels for New Jersey's Lyons and

1 East Orange veterans hospitals.

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3 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
4 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted  
5 to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives and every member of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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11 This resolutions calls upon the United States Congress to pass H.R.1156,  
12 "The Veterans Medical Care Equity Act of 1997," which requires the United  
13 States Secretary of Veterans Affairs to equitably fund federal veterans medical  
14 care programs and which maintains funding levels for New Jersey's Lyons and  
15 East Orange veterans hospitals.

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Equity Act of 1997."