

HM 713

2019

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to ensure that the United States  
4 Department of Veterans Affairs sufficiently implements  
5 both the letter and spirit of the VA Maintaining  
6 Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside  
7 Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018.

8  
9 WHEREAS, Florida has the third largest veteran population  
10 in the United States at approximately 1.6 million veterans, each  
11 of whose health and well-being are of utmost importance to the  
12 members of the Florida Legislature, and

13 WHEREAS, despite being charged with ensuring the health and  
14 well-being of Florida's veterans, the United States Department  
15 of Veterans Affairs has, in recent years, failed to timely  
16 deliver the quality of care these veterans deserve, and

17 WHEREAS, on June 6, 2018, President Donald Trump signed  
18 into law the bipartisan VA Maintaining Internal Systems and  
19 Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018,  
20 which was supported by more than 30 veteran and military service  
21 organizations, and

22 WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 requires an overhaul  
23 and modernization of the VA health care system and, when  
24 properly implemented, will preserve the beneficial aspects of  
25 the VA health care system while providing veterans increased

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26 health care options through a new and consolidated Veterans  
 27 Community Care Program, and

28 WHEREAS, to better serve Florida's veterans, the VA MISSION  
 29 Act of 2018 authorizes the United States Department of Veterans  
 30 Affairs to enter into community provider agreements with the  
 31 eight veterans' homes operated by the State of Florida, allowing  
 32 these homes to seamlessly partner with the VA without being  
 33 subject to additional federal regulations, and

34 WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 expands access to the  
 35 United States Department of Veterans Affairs Family Caregiver  
 36 Program to all veterans who have incurred or aggravated serious  
 37 injuries while serving on active duty in the military, rather  
 38 than only those serving since September 11, 2001, and also  
 39 establishes an information-sharing process to ensure that  
 40 community care providers employ safe opioid prescribing  
 41 practices at facilities where veterans receive care, and

42 WHEREAS, successful implementation of the VA MISSION Act of  
 43 2018 requires access to the highest quality of health care both  
 44 inside and outside the VA system through the timely publication  
 45 of clear access and quality standards, seamless access to walk-  
 46 in care, innovation in care delivery and claims processing, and  
 47 meeting key deadlines provided in the act as the United States  
 48 Department of Veterans Affairs reviews its infrastructure needs,  
 49 NOW, THEREFORE,

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51 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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53 |       That the Florida Legislature supports the passage of the VA  
54 | Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated  
55 | Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018 and urges Congress to  
56 | ensure successful implementation by the United States Department  
57 | of Veterans Affairs consistent with the letter and spirit in  
58 | which the act was written.

59 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
60 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
61 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
62 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
63 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.