

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 371

Introduced by Cornett, 45; Adams, 24; Ashford, 20; Avery, 28; Campbell, 25; Carlson, 38; Conrad, 46; Cook, 13; Council, 11; Dierks, 40; Dubas, 34; Fischer, 43; Flood, 19; Fulton, 29; Gay, 14; Giese, 17; Gloor, 35; Haar, 21; Hadley, 37; Hansen, 42; Heidemann, 1; Howard, 9; Janssen, 15; Karpisek, 32; Krist, 10; Lathrop, 12; Lautenbaugh, 18; Louden, 49; McCoy, 39; McGill, 26; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; Pankonin, 2; Pirsch, 4; Price, 3; Rogert, 16; Schilz, 47; Stuthman, 22; Sullivan, 41; Utter, 33; Wallman, 30; White, 8; Wightman, 36.

WHEREAS, women have served honorably and with courage in all of America's wars and conflicts since the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, the United States military has evolved from a predominantly male force to a force made up of more than fourteen percent women currently serving on active duty, and nearly seventeen percent women serving in the Reserves and the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the population of women veterans is increasing exponentially from 1.1 million in 1980 to a projection of nearly 2 million by 2020, comprising more than ten percent of the veteran population in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the projected population of male veterans is expected to continue to decline; and

WHEREAS, given that an unprecedented number of women are serving in the military and participating in Operation

Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is working to provide consistent, comprehensive, and quality health care and benefits to women veterans of all eras; and

WHEREAS, the number of women veterans has increased over the last decade because there is an increasing number and proportion of women who are entering and leaving the military, women are living longer than men, and women veterans have a younger age distribution compared to men veterans; and

WHEREAS, even though the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has been at the forefront of health care and lifestyle solutions affecting an aging male population, there is now a growing need to improve health care services for women veterans, to ensure clinicians are properly trained to provide primary care and gender specific care to women of all ages, and to identify innovative courses of treatment and solutions to obstacles that are unique to women veterans; and

WHEREAS, with a rapidly increasing number of women serving in the military and returning from deployments as seasoned veterans, some with exposure to combat, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and veterans service organizations are working to ensure that the post-deployment mental and physical health needs unique to women veterans are also met; and

WHEREAS, even though the roles of women in the military have changed over time and will continue to change, these women deserve to be acknowledged for their military service and treated with equal respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature encourages the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs and its women veterans state coordinator to work in conjunction with the National Foundation for Women Legislators and the Center for Women Veterans at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to reach out to all women veterans within the state to encourage them to bring their specific needs and concerns to the attention of agency officials so that state legislators and agency officials can work together to identify unique issues impacting women veterans and consider policy solutions that will improve the quality of life for women veterans within the state.

2. That the Legislature honors all of the women in this state who have heroically answered their call to duty and recognizes the important role women have played in shaping this great nation.