

By: Senator(s) Pickering (By Request)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 602

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF
2 THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT CERTAIN LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE
3 MEDICAL NEEDS OF RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES WHO ARE
4 MEDICARE ELIGIBLE.

5 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has one of the largest
6 retired military communities in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Mississippi includes among its population thousands
8 of retired military personnel in addition to their dependent
9 families; and

10 WHEREAS, these military retirees receive millions of dollars
11 per month in retired military pay, much of which goes for the
12 daily living expenses of the retired military community and thus
13 helps support the economy of the State of Mississippi; and

14 WHEREAS, it is believed that the contributions of the retired
15 military community to this state and nation are beyond most
16 people's realization; and

17 WHEREAS, the health care of our retired military community
18 was recognized by Congress in the fiscal 2001 National Defense
19 Authorization Act, Public Law 106-398, in a program titled
20 "TRICARE for Life"; and

21 WHEREAS, TRICARE substantially improves health care access
22 for most Medicare eligible military retirees; and

23 WHEREAS, TRICARE for Life is a "Medigap" type wraparound
24 coverage, that is, it fills the gaps left by Medicare; and

25 WHEREAS, when a Medicare eligible retiree uses a civilian
26 facility, TRICARE becomes the secondary payer to Medicare; and

27 WHEREAS, when the retiree uses the Military Treatment
28 Facilities (MTF), Medicare pays nothing; and

29 WHEREAS, with the authorization of Medicare funds for
30 patients in a Military Treatment Facility, and with the addition
31 of trained medical personnel, could accommodate both retired
32 military personnel and dependents and active duty personnel; and

33 WHEREAS, providing Medicare funds to Military Treatment
34 Facilities will provide jobs for qualified military and civilian
35 medical personnel which will assist the economy of this state; and

36 WHEREAS, only the United States Congress can make good on the
37 promises recruiters made in good faith to those that served their
38 country for at least 20 years with the understanding that when
39 they retired, they and their dependents would receive full health
40 care for life:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
43 the Legislature of the State of Mississippi respectfully requests
44 the President and Congress of the United States to enact
45 legislation recognizing the medical needs of retired military
46 personnel and families who are of Medicare age to provide Medicare
47 funds directly to the Military Treatment Facility when an
48 individual is in the hospital so that expansion with the hiring of
49 qualified medical personnel will not only create additional jobs,
50 but will also reduce over the next decade Medicare payments for
51 private care.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State transmit
53 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of
54 the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
55 to each Senator and Representative from Mississippi in the
56 Congress of the United States, to the Senate Armed Forces
57 Committee, to the House Armed Services Committee, and to the
58 chairman of each committee of the House of Representatives and the
59 Senate for consideration of this legislation.