

2013-K1265

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Congress to pass H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014

WHEREAS, In recent weeks; there have been numerous articles and growing outrage over delays in treatment, manipulated data or created secret waiting lists to hide long delays at veterans hospitals around the country; those concerns initially focused on veterans' medical facilities in Phoenix, Arizona, but now involved 26 facilities in several states; and WHEREAS, There are 152 medical centers nationwide, with 12 located throughout the State of New York; as well, there are clinics, nursing homes and other facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs that work directly with veterans of all ages, wars, conflicts, males, females and health concerns; and

WHEREAS, The federal legislation, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014, would amend title 38 U.S.C. and give the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs(VA) authority to remove employees of the Senior Executive Service, whose performance the Secretary believes warrants removal, from the government service completely or transfer them to a General Schedule position within the current civil service system; the ability to remove such an employee is modeled after the same authority which Members of Congress have to remove their professional staff members who work for them; and

WHEREAS, This measure would require the VA Secretary to give the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees notice of removal within 30 days of removing an individual; and

WHEREAS, Multiple VA Inspector General reports have linked many VA patient care problems to widespread mismanagement within VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government Accountability Office (US GAO) found VA

bonus pay has no clear link to performance; the Department has consistently defended its celebration of senior executives who presided over these events, all the while giving them glowing performance reviews and cash bonuses of up to \$63,000; and

WHEREAS, This bill was drafted in response to a year-long U.S. House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committee investigation into the VA system; and

WHEREAS, This federal measure is supported by Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, AMVETS, The American Legion, Concerned Veterans of America and the Reserve Officers Association; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to pass legislation to make it easier to fire any poorly performing senior VA employees and managers, better known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014, H.R. 4031; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, to be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Congress of the United States from the State of New York.