

House Resolution No. 910

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HILL.

2597H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2 **WHEREAS**, veterans and surviving spouses who require help with activities of daily
3 living may be eligible for additional pension benefits for care assistance in the home or in an
4 assisted living community. The Aid and Attendance Pension Program is available to honorably
5 discharged wartime veterans with 90 days of active duty and their surviving spouses; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recently proposed new
7 regulations for the Aid and Attendance Pension Program that will have a detrimental impact on
8 allowing older veterans and their surviving spouses to live on their own; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the proposed changes in the program will result in a rise in the number of
11 veterans forced into nursing homes. Eliminating the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
12 (IADL) eligible for assistance will make it more difficult for many veterans to stay in their home.
13 IADL services include, but are not limited to, housekeeping, laundry, transportation, meal
14 preparation, etc.; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the Aid and Attendance Pension Program will now cap the cost of home
17 care at \$21 per hour everywhere in the nation. In many areas of the nation, this cap will fail to
18 attract quality providers because the cap does not consider the market's operational expenses
19 such as labor costs, liability insurance, caregiver screenings, etc. or capital costs such as office
20 expenses, transportation, taxes, etc.; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the \$21 per hour cap will force families to pay caregivers directly rather
23 than use reputable home care companies. As a result, veterans may need to hire unlicensed or
24 unqualified caregivers. This will leave veterans vulnerable to poor and unsafe care from
25 uninsured or disreputable caregivers; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, this proposed cap of \$21 will make it difficult for veterans to receive home
28 care services during the holidays since the standard industry holiday rate is 1.5 times the hourly
29 rate; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, veterans that do not have the resources or the ability to pay the costs
32 themselves will be unable to maintain their independence and live in their own home. This will
33 be especially difficult for veterans on fixed incomes; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, for years it has been the policy of the United States that veterans have
36 earned the right to some assistance when they are older, and sadly, the VA's proposed changes
37 to this needs-based program are so restrictive that many veterans may no longer benefit from the
38 Aid and Attendance Pension Program:

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40 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
41 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, hereby strongly urge the United States
42 Congress and the Missouri Congressional Delegation to strongly oppose the proposed new
43 regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the Aid and Attendance Pension
44 Program; and

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46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
47 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for John
48 Boehner, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; Mitch McConnell, Majority
49 Leader of the United States Senate; and each member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.

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