

SJR

11

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Co-chair, Joint Armed Services
Committee

•
Resources Committee

•
Judiciary Committee

•
Transportation Committee



State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2435
Fax: (907) 465-6615

716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 440
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0102
Fax: (907) 269-6122

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

January 25, 2008

Senator Bettye Davis, Chair
Senate Health, Education Social Services Committee
Room 30, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I respectfully request a hearing on SJR 11, a resolution supporting federal funding for veterans' health care and urging the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care.

This simple resolution expresses gratitude for and recognizes the sacrifices made by veterans who suffer from medical and mental problems resulting from injuries sustained while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It urges the United States Congress to increase funding for veteran's health care, in light of the deplorable funding inadequacies that exist today.

Thank you for your speedy consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Wielechowski".

Senator Bill Wielechowski

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Interim:
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Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0120

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

SJR 11 – Supporting Adequate Funding for Veteran’s Health Care Sponsor Statement

We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. One of the things we can, and must, do for our veterans is to honor the promises we have made to them. This starts with providing those veterans with access to the quality health care they deserve.

The press has documented the neglect of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi has publicly stated that the Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide health care to the rapidly rising number of veterans who require it.

As the state with the largest per capita number of veterans, it is essential that we send a clear signal of our commitment to care for our military personnel both on active duty and as veterans. While our legislature tries to do all we can for our vets and returning soldiers, our federal government has the primary responsibility of meeting the needs of our veterans. We need to call on Congress, as a state, to adequately fund critical veteran services.

We respectfully request the Alaska State Legislature to support this resolution to provide adequate federal funding for veterans’ health care. Thank you.