

## 2015-K562

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the New York State Congressional delegation to support the passage of the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015, S.471

WHEREAS, The federal legislation known as the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs shall establish standards to ensure that all medical facilities of the VA have the structural characteristics necessary to adequately meet the gender-specific health care needs of veterans at such facilities, including privacy, safety, and dignity; and

WHEREAS, All VA health care facilities would be required to have a full time obstetrician and/or gynecologist on staff under this measure; and

WHEREAS, All health outcomes will be analyzed by the Government Accountability Office to study the VA's ability to meet the needs of female veterans; and

WHEREAS, Under this federal legislation outreach to veterans would be improved by requiring the VA to provide state agencies with contact information for veterans; and

WHEREAS, There are nearly 2.3 million female veterans nationwide and that number has continued to grow annually by 9 percent since 2000; and

WHEREAS, Women make up 15 percent of the United States military's active duty personnel and 18 percent of the National Guard and Reserve forces; and

WHEREAS, In New York State there are 66,052 female veterans; and

WHEREAS, There are 12 medical centers, 47 community based outpatient clinics and 16 veteran centers in New York state; and

WHEREAS, According to VA internal documents and reports, almost one in four VA hospitals do not have a full-time gynecologist on staff; and

WHEREAS, When community-based clinics refer veterans to other medical facilities to be tested for breast cancer, over half of their mammogram results are not provided within the required VA policy time limit of two weeks; and

WHEREAS, According to a VA presentation in 2013, veterans of child-bearing age were more likely to be given medications that may cause birth defects than women being treated through a private HMO; and

WHEREAS, Female veterans are placed on the VA's Electronic Wait List at a higher rate than male veterans due to lack of facilities specific to the needs of female veterans; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015 is to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, This federal legislation is supported by the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to support the passage of the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015, S.471 to recognize the unique healthcare needs of women veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the Congressional delegation from New York State.