



1 homeless and women veterans; and

2       Whereas, The committee met with Mrs. Deborah Mullen, wife of  
3 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, and  
4 learned that more and more women veterans are taking refuge in  
5 homeless shelters with their children than ever before; and

6       Whereas, Many women veterans do not consider themselves  
7 veterans, nor do they feel they deserve the benefits offered to all  
8 veterans per their service to their country; and

9       Whereas, The committee also learned that children of both  
10 veterans and currently serving military service members suffer  
11 unique emotional and logistical challenges that often go undiagnosed  
12 and unnoticed; and

13       Whereas, The committee recommended the adoption of the  
14 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children  
15 to help ease some of this burden to those affected children; and

16       Whereas, By recommendation of The Veterans Initiative Task  
17 Force established in 2009 and this committee, the Legislature of  
18 West Virginia passed legislation during the 2010 regular legislative  
19 session calling on the state's institutions of higher education to  
20 implement measures to assure that veterans attending those  
21 institutions receive adequate services and are provided adequate  
22 facilities to make these institutions "veteran friendly"; and

23       Whereas, The Veterans Initiative Task Force continues to make  
24 policy recommendations to the committee regarding ways to increase  
25 the available services at the state's institutions of higher

1 education; and

2       Whereas, Generations of veterans from all services have called  
3 West Virginia home as West Virginia has one of the highest numbers  
4 of active duty and injured soldiers per capita in the nation; and

5       Whereas, It is important that all eligible veterans receive the  
6 services, treatment, and care they so richly deserve for  
7 volunteering their lives to the protection of this country and its  
8 institutions; and

9       Whereas, The State of West Virginia should remain committed to  
10 showing its gratitude of these service men and women by continuing  
11 its endeavor of developing and enhancing services directed at  
12 providing eligible veterans with healthcare services and education  
13 opportunities; therefore, be it

14       *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15       That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
16 requested to continue studying the needs, challenges and issues  
17 facing West Virginia veterans returning from recent service and  
18 those generations that have served before for the purpose of making  
19 recommendations on how the State of West Virginia can better assist  
20 them in getting the care and opportunities they deserve; and, be it

21       *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and  
22 Finance report to the Legislature, on the first day of the regular  
23 session, 2012, on its findings, conclusions and recommendations  
24 together with drafts of any legislation to effectuate its  
25 recommendations; and, be it

1        *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
2 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
3 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
4 Government and Finance.