

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 22**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
220th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON**

**District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)**

**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Space, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblymen Bergen, Sauickie, Assemblywomen Eulner, Murphy, Piperno, Senators Pennacchio, A.M.Bucco, Doherty, Corrado, Madden, Durr and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges federal Department of Veterans Affairs to establish Vet Center in Northwestern New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/17/2022)**

ACR22 WIRTHS, TUCKER

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1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the federal Department of  
2       Veterans Affairs to establish a Vet Center in Northwestern New  
3       Jersey.  
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5   **WHEREAS**, Veterans in the State of New Jersey deserve high quality  
6       and accessible mental health care; and  
7   **WHEREAS**, The United States has a long history of providing  
8       assistance to veterans, beginning in the colonial era; and  
9   **WHEREAS**, During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a  
10      law to establish a national soldiers and sailors asylum, creating the  
11      blueprint for future VA hospitals; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, In 1917, the United States Congress established a new  
13      system for veterans benefits, expanding services and providing  
14      soldiers returning from World War I with access to newly  
15      established hospitals that specifically addressed the needs of  
16      veterans; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, After World War II, the population of veterans increased,  
18      leading the United States Congress to enact new benefits for  
19      veterans and to the modernization of the VA; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, In 1979, the United States Congress recognized the mental  
21      health needs of veterans who had returned from Vietnam and  
22      created Vet Centers to provide mental health and readjustment  
23      services to veterans; and  
24   **WHEREAS**, Vet Centers provide a broad range of counseling, outreach,  
25      and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help the veteran  
26      make a successful readjustment to civilian life; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, Vet Centers provide veterans, service members, and their  
28      families with readjustment counseling including individual and  
29      group counseling, family counseling, bereavement counseling,  
30      military sexual trauma counseling and referral, and substance abuse  
31      assessment and referral, and with other medical and social services  
32      to assist veterans; and  
33   **WHEREAS**, Separate from VA sites to ensure confidentiality of  
34      services and easy access to care, Vet Centers are located within the  
35      community to best serve veterans, service members, and their  
36      families; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, There are currently five Vet Centers in New Jersey, none  
38      of which are located in the northwestern part of the State; and  
39   **WHEREAS**, As of September 30, 2020, the United States Department  
40      of Veterans Affairs has estimated that about 40,000 veterans reside  
41      in Morris, Sussex, Warren, and Hunterdon counties; and  
42   **WHEREAS**, The lack of a Vet Center in the northwestern part of the  
43      State creates a burden on veterans, service members, and their  
44      families who are forced to travel long distances or travel out of  
45      State to receive much needed mental health services; now,  
46      therefore,

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1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
2 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

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4       1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully urges  
5 the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a Vet Center  
6 in Northwestern New Jersey.

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8       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
9 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
10 Director of the Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System, to  
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and every member of Congress  
12 from this State.