

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 100**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to reauthorize, expand, and fully fund Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury within Department of Veterans Affairs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging Congress to reauthorize,
2 expand, and fully fund the Assisted Living Pilot Program for
3 Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury within the Department of
4 Veterans Affairs.

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Traumatic brain injuries are common among American
7 veterans, as more than 408,000 United States service members have
8 suffered traumatic brain injuries since 2000; and

9 **WHEREAS**, A traumatic brain injury is an alteration in brain function,
10 or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, Individuals with traumatic brain injuries may experience
13 memory loss, concentration or attention problems, slowed learning,
14 depression, impulsivity, aggression, thoughts of suicide, fatigue,
15 headaches, sensory losses, seizures, and difficulty with balance,
16 motor skills, planning, reasoning, or judgment; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with
18 Traumatic Brain Injury was a five-year pilot program authorized
19 under the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
20 2008" to enhance the rehabilitation, quality of life, and community
21 integration of veterans with traumatic brain injuries; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with
23 Traumatic Brain Injury offered more than 100 veterans the
24 opportunity to receive treatment for traumatic brain injuries in
25 assisted living facilities, where they relearned a number of essential
26 activities that prepare the veteran to reintegrate into society; and

27 **WHEREAS**, After multiple extensions, statutory authority for the
28 Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain
29 Injury expired on January 6, 2018, forcing veterans who were
30 participating in this innovative program to move to a different
31 rehabilitation setting; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Since January 2018, veterans with a traumatic brain injury
33 have forgone the specialized, team-based care and rehabilitative
34 services formerly provided through the Assisted Living Pilot
35 Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury; and,

36 **WHEREAS**, Many veterans would benefit from the reauthorization and
37 expansion of the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with
38 Traumatic Brain Injury by gaining access to comprehensive
39 treatment and rehabilitation from severe injuries that are
40 notoriously difficult to treat; and

41 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully
42 urges Congress to reauthorize, expand, and fully fund the Assisted
43 Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury so
44 that our nation's veterans can continue to receive the treatment and
45 services they need and deserve; now, therefore,

46
47 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
48 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

2. Copies of this concurrent resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or Secretary of the Senate to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, and to each member of Congress elected from this State.

This concurrent resolution urges Congress to reauthorize, expand, and fully fund the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury within the Department of Veterans Affairs. This five-year pilot program, originally authorized under the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008," provided veterans with traumatic brain injuries enhanced rehabilitation services, improved quality of life, and integration within the larger community. The program offered more than 100 veterans the opportunity to receive treatment for traumatic brain injuries in assisted living facilities, where they relearned a number of essential tasks, such as how to cook, make a bed, and go to the grocery store.

Congressional authorization for the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury, after multiple extensions, expired on January 6, 2018 and participating veterans were moved to new rehabilitation settings. To ensure that our nation's veterans continue to receive the treatment and services they need and deserve, Congress should expand, rather than terminate, this innovative initiative.

A traumatic brain injury is an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force. Since 2000, more than 408,000 United States service members have suffered traumatic brain injuries. Individuals with traumatic brain injuries may experience memory loss, concentration or attention problems, slowed learning, depression, impulsivity, aggression, thoughts of suicide, fatigue, headaches, sensory losses, seizures, and difficulty with balance, motor skills, planning, reasoning, or judgment.

The Legislature of this State urges Congress to reauthorize, expand, and fully fund the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury within the Department of Veterans Affairs.