

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 80

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator CHRIS A. BROWN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Connors, Pou and Cruz-Perez

SYNOPSIS

Calls upon Congress to release funds to offset COVID-19 related losses to DMVA's veteran memorial homes, and to fully fund rebuilding two veteran memorial homes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/5/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** calling upon Congress to release funds to
2 offset COVID-19 related losses to veteran memorial homes
3 operated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans
4 Affairs, and to fully fund rebuilding certain veteran memorial
5 homes.

6
7 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans
8 Affairs (DMVA) operates three veteran memorial homes; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The memorial homes are located in Paramus, Menlo Park,
10 and Vineland; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The memorial homes accommodate approximately 950
12 veterans, spouses, and the spouses and parents of veterans killed in
13 action; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the
15 residents and staff at the memorial homes; and

16 **WHEREAS**, There have been staff and residents infected by COVID-19,
17 and there have been staff and resident deaths related to COVID-19;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic losses to the
20 memorial homes due to staffing shortages, overtime and contract
21 nursing care costs, food shortages, costs related to protective
22 personal equipment, and lost revenue due to a prohibition on new
23 admittances; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The economic impact of COVID-19 to DMVA is projected
25 to be approximately \$15 million dollars, a severe financial hardship;
26 and

27 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative that Congress provide COVID-19 related
28 funding to DMVA for its memorial homes so that the residents have
29 a safe environment, and DMVA can fully and properly operate the
30 memorial homes; and

31 **WHEREAS**, In addition, federal funding is urgently needed to rebuild the
32 decaying memorial homes; and

33 **WHEREAS**, The Vineland veteran memorial home was rebuilt and
34 rededicated in 2005, while the Paramus and Menlo Park locations are
35 decades old; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Our veterans and their families have sacrificed so much, and
37 they should not have to suffer because of COVID-19 related
38 shortages, or live in decaying buildings; now, therefore,

39
40 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
41 *of New Jersey:*

42
43 1. This State calls upon Congress to release funds to offset
44 COVID-19 related losses to the veteran memorial homes operated by
45 the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and to
46 fully fund rebuilding the Paramus and Menlo Park veteran memorial
47 homes.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

In addition, federal funding is urgently needed to rebuild the decaying memorial homes. The Vineland veteran memorial home was rebuilt and rededicated in 2005, while the Paramus and Menlo Park locations are decades old. Our veterans and their families have sacrificed so much. They should not have to suffer because of COVID-19 related shortages, or live in decaying buildings.