

STATE OF TENNESSEE

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 546

By Representative Jim Cobb

A RESOLUTION relative to the location of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Rhea County.

WHEREAS, East Tennessee is in great need of a medical facility to serve its brave veterans; and

WHEREAS, because of Rhea County's central location, the location of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital there would serve approximately 30,000 veterans from East Tennessee, North Georgia, and Northern Alabama; and

WHEREAS, presently, veterans living in East Tennessee must travel 150 miles to the Alvin C. York VA facility in Murfreesboro for medical treatment; this extensive travel creates a hardship for most of these veterans; and

WHEREAS, Rhea County has recently opened a new hospital and has generously offered to donate its old hospital building, facilities, and campus to the VA for the express purpose of locating a much needed medical facility there to serve the veterans of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the old Rhea County Medical Center building could be easily modified to house 150 beds, and the building is still equipped with modern medical technology and modern operational systems; and

WHEREAS, easily accessible from U.S. Highway 27, the old Rhea County hospital property includes 132 vacant acres that could be utilized for expansion in the future; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving the medical needs of our East Tennessee veterans, the location of a VA medical facility in Rhea County would create new jobs in the area; and

WHEREAS, our veterans have sacrificed a great deal in defending and protecting our nation, and the State of Tennessee and the federal government should work together to adequately provide for the medical needs of these valiant citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly strongly urges and encourages the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to accept Rhea County's proposed donation of its old hospital building, facilities, and campus to the VA and to utilize such building, facilities, and campus to locate a VA medical facility at such site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly urges each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation to use the full measure of his or her power and influence to facilitate the location of a VA medical facility at the old Rhea County hospital campus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation; and the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee.

ADOPTED: June 18, 2009



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED: June 25, 2009



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR