

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 20

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Kim**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Brough, and Chang)**  
(Coauthors: Senators ~~Bates~~ *Bates*, *Huff*, and Mendoza)

May 28, 2015

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 20—Relative to Veterans Affairs hospitals.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 20, as amended, Kim. Veterans Affairs hospitals.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to support and build a central Veterans Affairs ~~hospital~~ *Hospital* in Orange County.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Many service members returning home to Orange  
2 County face significant barriers to a successful transition back to  
3 civilian life; and  
4 WHEREAS, Sixty-one percent of post-9/11 Orange County  
5 veterans reported difficulties adjusting to civilian life and needing  
6 time to figure out what to do after service in the military; and  
7 WHEREAS, About one in five post-9/11 veterans in Orange  
8 County have considered suicide, and one in six developed a suicide  
9 ~~plan, and among~~ *plan. Among* those Orange County veterans who  
10 considered or made a plan to commit suicide, about one-half did  
11 not seek help; and

1 WHEREAS, Orange County veterans have reported barriers,  
2 including not knowing where to access services, difficulty  
3 scheduling appointments, and concerns about confidentiality and  
4 treatment; and

5 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of post-9/11 veterans and 9  
6 percent of pre-9/11 veterans indicated severe physical health  
7 symptoms. In addition, post-9/11 veterans were more likely to  
8 screen positive for post-traumatic stress disorder and depression  
9 than pre-9/11 veterans; and

10 WHEREAS, One-half of all Orange County post-9/11 veterans  
11 reported their greatest needs as Veterans Affairs service assistance  
12 and health care assistance; and

13 WHEREAS, Only 24 percent of Orange County veterans  
14 reported that they could handle the challenges on their own, and  
15 their needs are not being met; and

16 WHEREAS, A considerable number of Orange County veterans  
17 are not receiving care for physical and psychological issues, and  
18 have a high rate of mental health concerns; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
20 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the  
21 United States to support and build a central Veterans Affairs  
22 Hospital in Orange County for the mental health care needs of  
23 local veterans; and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
25 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
26 States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
27 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each Senator and  
28 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
29 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.