

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3018
(Representatives D. Anderson, Schatz, Schmidt, Westlind)
(Senators Mathern, Robinson, Vedaa)

A concurrent resolution urging the Congress of the United States to provide veterans with medical coverage for hyperbaric oxygenation therapy.

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates between 1.6 million to 3.8 million concussions occur each year; and

WHEREAS, efforts must be made to reduce the risk and health care costs for the country, veterans, and others with brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, veterans injured in the line of duty deserve the best treatment our nation can offer; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering with traumatic brain injuries or posttraumatic stress disorder are prescribed symptom-reducing drugs; and

WHEREAS, in essence, veterans are warehoused and discharged, dependent on costly antidepressants and other antipsychotic medicines that promote dangerous dependencies and may result in lethal interactions; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States, accounting for approximately 2 million emergency room visits, 230,000 to 500,000 hospital admissions, and 52,000 deaths annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a medical treatment that enhances the body's natural healing process by inhalation of 100 percent oxygen in a total body chamber, where atmospheric pressure is increased and controlled, and which is used for a wide variety of treatments as a part of an overall medical care plan; and

WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and improving diagnostics have emerged as a promising and effective treatment in healing injured brains and subsequently reducing, and in some cases completely alleviating, the symptoms associated with the traumatic brain injury;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to provide veterans with medical coverage for hyperbaric oxygenation therapy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of the Congress of the United States.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate