

COMMITTEES: LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

POLICY: SERVICE DOGS FOR VETERANS

TYPE: DRAFT RESOLUTION

SPONSOR: Rep. Sloan (Kansas)

1 U.S. servicemembers deployed into combat zones often face physical,
2 mental, and emotional challenges as they make their return home. One of
3 the tools being used to successfully support these veterans and mitigate
4 the difficulties they face are service dogs. They not only assist in daily
5 tasks for those with physical impairments – their use as support animals for
6 soldiers with conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder is growing
7 as well.

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9 NCSL recognizes the need to ensure that the use of these canine
10 companions is supported and expanded across the country for our
11 returning veterans, including members of the states' National Guard. For
12 this reason, NCSL supports federal policies that promote the use of these
13 service animals. Specifically, NCSL commends the work being done on

14 H.R. 2493, the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act, introduced by Rep.
15 McGovern (MA). This bill supports the use of service dogs for veterans –
16 and NCSL urges it's passage.

17 NCSL further calls upon Congress to enact legislation that would permit
18 disabled veterans to consider the costs associated with a service dog as a
19 reimbursable medical expense.