

RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON opposing VA privatization.
Resolution number _____

Whereas, the transfer of government functions in order to generate private profits at the expense of services that taxpayer funds are intended to provide is unacceptable in a democracy; and

Whereas, the VA Choice program is being abused to divert funds intended to provide health care to veterans to providers of much more expensive private care; and

Whereas, this has led to a doubling of outsourced VA-paid patient visits since the implementation of the Choice program in 2014; and

Whereas, plans are in place to increase funding for the VA Choice program to \$19 billion out of a total budget of approximately \$72 for VA health care; and

Whereas, only the VA can provide the high quality, specialized, integrated care that our veterans have earned; and

Whereas, in large part due to inadequate remuneration, there are 45,000 unfilled VA positions that remain unfilled that could address problems with access; and

Whereas, legislation has been repeatedly proposed to expand the VA Choice program far beyond its original purpose of being a stop gap until provider shortages can be addressed, and instead now wastes funds that could be used to address those shortages; and

Whereas former Secretary of the VA David Shulkin and all major veteran services organizations have explicitly decried these efforts to privatize the VA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY THAT:

We strongly urge our members of Congress to forcefully advocate for full funding of the VA at a level sufficient to provide all logistically feasible health care services consistent with standard of care requirements, and to oppose any and all attempts to divert said funding to private care except as needed to meet needs that cannot otherwise be satisfied; and

We direct Senators Merkley and Wyden to closely question any nominee for the office of Secretary of the VA on their position on privatization of the Department of Veterans Affairs or its functions.

Resolution as submitted by the Platform and Resolutions Committee ADOPTED by the Democratic Party of Douglas County as approved by the Douglas County Central Committee on _____ day of _____,
_____.