

House Resolution 315

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Boddie of the 62nd, Dreyer of the 59th, and Jackson of the 64th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the National League of Cities' Mayors Challenge to End
2 Veteran Homelessness; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in January, 2014, communities across America identified 49,933 homeless
4 veterans during point-in-time counts, which represent 8.6 percent of the total homeless
5 population; and

6 WHEREAS, American veterans are more likely than civilians to experience homelessness,
7 in part because they have a higher risk of experiencing traumatic brain injuries and
8 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), both of which have been found to be among the most
9 substantial risk factors for homelessness; and

10 WHEREAS, more than 3,000 veterans sleep on the streets of Georgia each night, including
11 19 homeless veterans identified in 2017 within the HUD Continuum of Care District of
12 Fulton County, Georgia, 502C0C, where the city of East Point is located; and

13 WHEREAS, American veterans could benefit from integrated services that provide secure
14 housing, nutritional meals, basic physical health care, substance abuse care and aftercare,
15 mental health counseling, and personal development and empowerment; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness presented the report
17 titled "10-Strategies to End Veterans Homelessness"; the ten recommended strategies are:
18 (1) prepare state and local leaders to publicly commit to and coordinate efforts to end veteran
19 homelessness, (2) implement a housing-first system orientation and response, (3) implement
20 a coordinated entry system, (4) set and meet ambitious short-term and long-term goals by
21 deploying all resources effectively, (5) improve transitional housing performance and
22 consider adopting different models and/or converting or reallocating resources into
23 supportive housing, (6) engage and support private landlords as partners, (7) identify and be
24 accountable to all veterans experiencing homelessness, (8) conduct coordinated outreach and

25 engagement efforts, (9) increase connections to employment, and (10) coordinate with legal
26 services organizations to solve legal needs; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the critical needs of Georgia's homeless
28 veterans be appropriately addressed.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize and commend the National League of Cities' Mayors
31 Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
34 public and the press.