

STATEMENT OF FACTS

This bill would grant a Federal charter to the National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. This organization was formed at the urgent request of the Grand Army of the Republic, July 26, 1883 and is presently incorporated under the laws of Illinois. It is composed of 70,000 active members in 1281 local units, known as corps, which are located in 46 states. Membership in this organization is open to loyal women. It is the only organization that was given the legal right to use the name of the Grand Army of the Republic and was organized to assist the Grand Army of the Republic in caring for the Grand Army of the Republic and veterans of all wars of the United States of America.

For 73 years they have been faithful to the trust reposed in them by the veterans of the Civil War and can prove the following facts: That we have expended for relief among the Union Veterans and their dependents \$12,881,598.13, up to and including May 1953; expended for National Defense \$433,102.10; given to Memorial Day in the South \$43,508.05; given to Civil War Army Nurses \$38,456.27; given to Spanish American, World War I and II Veterans \$305,092.29; given to schools in the South and for Scholarships \$119,198.46; given to Child Welfare \$552,232.50; expended for patriotic work \$1,668,785.95.

In World War II gave American Red Cross for blood plasma and relief \$147,859.91; presented mobile units in Providence, Rhode Island, Cleveland, Ohio, Los Angeles, California and Fort Worth, Texas.

The accompanying appeal and urgent request of the only surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the estimation of the National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, should bear weight and in recognition of our faithful service for over 72 years, should be worthy of your consideration in granting to us this Bill of Incorporation.

It has been the expressed wish of the Grand Army of the Republic, that they have no successors and when the surviving member of the organization expires, the books of the Grand Army of the Republic, will be closed forever and as their Auxiliary, we will abide by their wishes.

By being granted a Federal Charter of Incorporation, we can carry on as the National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Submitted by: **Laura I. Smith, Chairman**
Legislative Committee