

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 19-11**

**SUBJECT:** VA & DoD Mental Health Funding & Programs

**SOURCE:** HQ

**WHEREAS**, AMVETS acknowledges the benefits accrued to veterans through implementation of VA's National Mental Health Strategic Plan to improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families; and

**WHEREAS**, the VA provided specialized mental health services FY2015 to more than 1.6 million veterans and of the nearly 2 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan eligible for VA care, 62 percent accessed health-care services with over 58 percent receiving mental health diagnoses; and

**WHEREAS**, despite progress in hiring additional mental health staff, AMVETS remains concerned about how VA plans to resolve its mental health staffing issues to meet demand and provide timely access for these critical services; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS strongly encourages both the VA and DoD to ensure that veterans and service members receive adequate screening for their mental health needs; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS strongly encourages VA to work to address mental health staffing shortages, and to ensure that all professional staff are provided specialized training and orientation to the current roles and experiences of the men and women in the military, taking care to acknowledge the unique post-deployment mental health challenges faced by women; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, AMVETS strongly recommends Congress appropriate more dedicated funding for mental health care and related programs and services during the next five fiscal year budgets and to annually review the effectiveness of said services in order to effectively treat servicemembers and veterans suffering from psychological trauma.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Armed Services & Military Liaison.....ADOPT  AMEND  REJECT  NONE

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation

Benefits.....ADOPT  AMEND  REJECT  NONE

Floor Action.....ADOPTED  ADOPTED (as amended)  REJECTED  TABLED