

DRAFT RESOLUTION 18-9

SUBJECT: HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS' WITH CHILDREN

SOURCE: WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, women veterans are two to three times more likely to be homeless than any other group in the United States adult population; and

WHEREAS, the primary causes of homeless women veterans included unemployment, disability, poor health and lack of treatment for PTSD and/or anxiety problems; and

WHEREAS, a recent study done by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that more than 60% of organizations with Grant and Per Diem programs (GPD) did not have sufficient resources to provide housing for the children of veterans. Of the 52 that did provide housing, 70 percent had major restrictions, including the number of children per veteran and age limits; and

WHEREAS, homeless women veterans have traditionally had difficulty accessing housing services due to safety and security concerns. The GAO study found that over 25 percent of existing GPD programs providing transitional housing to homeless women veterans cited safety concerns as a barrier to service delivery. Without gender-specific safety and security standards for GPD programs, nearly one in 16 programs surveyed by the GAO reported incidents of sexual harassment or assault on women residents in the last five years prior to the study; and

WHEREAS, as a result of trying to implement gender-specific safety and security standards for homeless women veteran programs, those who have male children are further restricted from accessing available resources due to the fear that male children over a certain age present a safety threat; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges VA to implement programs for homeless women veterans that do not discriminate based on the number of children a woman has, or the gender of the children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges to VA to ensure that women who are homeless or who at risk of becoming homeless are provided adequate mental health and employment counseling services.

By July 1, 2017, please send **only** Adopted Resolutions to awebb@amvets.org – or mail to:

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ADOPTED by
AMVETS Department of _____