

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 19-10**

**SUBJECT:** Rural & Remote Veterans Health Care

**SOURCE:** HQ

**WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 4.7 million rural and highly rural veterans who face a unique combination of factors that create disparities in health care not found in urban areas, such as inadequate access to care, limited availability of skilled care providers and additional stigma in seeking mental health care; and

**WHEREAS**, about 60 percent - or 2.8 million of these veterans are enrolled in VA Health Care which is significantly higher than the 37 percent enrollment rate of urban veterans and 56 percent of enrolled veterans are over the age of 65; and

**WHEREAS**, rural residents account for 17 percent of the entire U.S. population, yet more than 44 percent of recruits come from rural areas and more than 460,000 are veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan; and

**WHEREAS**, compared to urban areas, rural communities tend to have higher poverty rates, more elderly residents, residents with poorer health, and fewer physician practices, hospitals and other health delivery resources

**WHEREAS**, currently VA operates: 143 medical centers, of which 25 are considered by VA to be located in rural or highly rural areas, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, AMVETS advocates for rural veterans and supports legislation that addresses the gaps in care of rural and highly rural veterans and advocates for additional mobile Vet Centers; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS expresses in the strongest terms the need for appropriate levels of funding to care for the physical and mental health care of rural and highly rural veterans.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation

Benefits.....ADOPT  AMEND  REJECT  NONE

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