

DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-17

SUBJECT: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

SOURCE: AK, IN, IL, MO, OH, ND, CT, WI, DC, PA, NC, WA, MA, MI

WHEREAS, servicemembers continue to be deployed to areas where they are at risk for experiencing blast exposures from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), suicide bombs, land mines, mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and similar weapons systems; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries (TBI), the signature injury of modern combat, is a complex injury to the physical structure of the brain, and effects about 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, the overarching issue faced by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is identifying symptoms resulting from TBI which are often difficult to definitively diagnose and document and which may not be immediately evident; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS encourages VA and DoD to coordinate their efforts to better address the consequences of mild-to-severe TBI and other concussive injuries, including improvements in: screening and treatment protocols; coordination of care; and support services for injured servicemembers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS convey to Congress that it is of the utmost importance for VA to have all of the necessary policies, procedures and personnel in place to provide the care for all service members having sustained blast related brain injuries and the corresponding effects that will either immediately, or over time, accompany them.

Committee Recommendations:

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation Benefits Committee: Adopt

Floor Action: ADOPTED