

DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-18 A

SUBJECT: VA Drug Pricing Initiatives

SOURCE: CA,

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration is the primary source of medication for those veterans who are eligible for and receive services from the VA based upon their military service to our country, and

WHEREAS, recently there have been legislative efforts in various states, such as Washington, Louisiana, South Dakota and Maine, to require state governments to not pay more for their drug purchases for state employees and other state medical recipients than those paid that are by the VA, and

WHEREAS, these VA price controls were previously tried by Congress in the 1990s and after they proved to be unworkable, they were cancelled by Congress, and

WHEREAS, in 2016 this issue was placed on the November 2016 California ballot as Proposition 61 where it was opposed by over 30 veterans' organizations, including AMVETS Department of California; and

WHEREAS, the VA stated that if Proposition 61 had passed it would have cost the VA an additional \$3.8 billion per year in increased drug prices and administrative costs, and

WHEREAS, California voters listened to the veterans' service organizations and other groups and defeated Proposition 61 by a margin of 54% to 46%, and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Issue 2, a ballot measure similar to Proposition 61 was placed on the ballot in Ohio and was opposed by over 15 veterans' organizations, including AMVETS Department of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Ohio voters supported the veterans' service organization's position, as well as other non-profit organizations and overwhelmingly defeated Issue 2 by a margin of 79% to 21%; and

WHEREAS, the proponents of these ballot and legislative initiatives are continuing to try to pass these measures; and

WHEREAS, the VA stated that if Proposition 61 had passed it would have cost the VA an additional \$3.8 billion per year in increased drug prices and administrative costs, and

WHEREAS, if any of these ballot or legislative measures pass, it will undoubtedly require the VA and Department of Defense to raise medication co-payments and/or reduce services based upon current budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS National Convention in 2017 passed Resolution 18-22 resolving to oppose these measures nationwide in any state Legislature or state ballot measure, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that AMVETS shall oppose any legislative or ballot issue that requires any state governmental agency, in any state, to align its drug pricing structure with the Veterans Administration.

Committee Recommendations:

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation Benefits Committee: None

Floor Action: WITHDRAWN