

DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-02

SUBJECT: Expand Eligibility for Agent Orange Related Illnesses

SOURCE: CT, AK, GA, MO, KY, OH, CT, DC, PA, NC, WA, MA, MI

WHEREAS, AMVETS is a national organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of their community, state, and nation, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs annually adds to or amends illness related diseases on Agent Orange, and

WHEREAS, 14 Agent Orange illnesses are listed, affecting 2.2 million veterans who served "boots on the ground" in Vietnam and Thailand from 1961-1971 and thousands more veterans in Korea from April 1, 1968 to August 31, 1971, and

WHEREAS, chloracne, acute and sub-acute peripheral neuropathy, and porphyria cutanea tarda, all on the list of 14 Agent Orange illnesses, currently have a cutoff date of only one year and at 10% disability following exposure to Agent Orange, and

WHEREAS, certain limitations were placed on the aforementioned diseases, establishing unreasonable and punitive onset dates resulting in the loss of earned disability compensation, and in some cases treatment, and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans now have health problems commonly associated with herbicide exposure and have endured lengthy legal struggles to prove that these problems are service-related; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS hereby urges the Congress of the United States, the National Institute of Health, and President of the United States, to expand eligibility for those three above listed illnesses (chloracne, acute and sub-acute peripheral neuropathy and cutanea tarda) and award earned benefits and treatment through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Committee Recommendations:

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

Floor Action: ADOPTED