

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-06**

**SUBJECT:** VA Claims & Appeals

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

**WHEREAS**, as of April 2017 the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has 373,519 claims pending for disability compensation and pension claims in addition to 97,592 that have been pending for more than 125 days, often referred to as backlogged claims; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the increasing complexity of both VA claims and appeals, the need for compliance with Court of Veterans Appeals claims decisions, continued VA requirements for repetitive and unnecessary examinations and the severe staffing shortages, progress on cases remains slow and unsatisfactory; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the impending drawdown, the demand for VA services and resources will continue to rise and is expected to remain high for the foreseeable future; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS urge Congress to ensure adequate funding and trained staff levels for the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve upon the timeliness and accuracy of all claims and appeals being filed; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS push for the Veterans Benefit Administration to process timely and accurate claims the first time they are reviewed, as well as the immediate implementation of a uniform data claims processing system, as well as, improved training for both VA claims and appeals processors to ensure a timely and accurate claims and appeals process for every veteran.

**Committee Recommendations:**

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

**Floor Action: ADOPTED**