RESOLUTION 12-15
SUBJECT: Department of Defense Mental Health Funding and Programs

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) estimates at least 30 percent of returning servicemembers will have experienced and eventually be diagnosed with a psychological trauma directly related to their service; and

WHEREAS, DoD and the federal government have an obligation to these servicemembers and to the readiness of the entire fighting force; and

WHEREAS, Mental and emotional wounds can have disastrous effects not only on the servicemember, but the family and fighting force as well; and

WHEREAS, The psychological effects of war vary from person to person and are often overlooked and untreated due to stigmas and readiness obligations; and

WHEREAS, The suicide rate among active duty, Guard and Reserve has surpassed that of the civilian population and is steadily continuing to rise: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AMVETS strongly recommends Congress appropriate more dedicated funding for mental health care and related programs and services during the next five fiscal year budgets and to annually review the effectiveness of said services in order to effectively treat servicemembers suffering from psychological trauma.