RESOLUTION 12-30

SUBJECT: Elimination of the Department Of Veterans Affairs Means Test

WHEREAS, as medical treatment at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital is an earned entitlement for veterans whose service was under honorable conditions; and

WHEREAS, most Veterans are required to complete an annual financial assessment or ‘Means test’ to determine if they qualify for cost-free services; and

WHEREAS, Veterans whose gross household income and net worth exceed the established thresholds must pay required co-pays to become eligible for VA health care services; and

WHEREAS, the paperwork and bureaucracy of the ‘Means Test’ is confusing, intrusive and precludes rapid issue of a Veterans Identification Card (VIC); and

WHEREAS, the ‘Means Test’ unfairly penalizes and is discriminatory to veterans who’ve lived responsible lives, created a retirement savings and/or purchased private domiciles through a lifetime of work, personal sacrifice and savings; and

WHEREAS, all veterans discharged under honorable conditions should be entitled to VA Medical Care regardless of financial circumstance, age or ailment: now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That AMVETS petition Congress to enact Federal legislation that would eliminate the ‘Means Test’ as a condition for treatment of veterans whose service has been under honorable conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That AMVETS petition Congress to enact legislation directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to issue a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) to any veteran who produces a DD-214 reflecting service under honorable conditions thereby ensuring those veterans rapid entry into the Department of Veterans Affairs.