RESOLUTION 13-14

SUBJECT: Military Sexual Trauma

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports an estimated 23.6 percent of veterans (22.4% - women and 1.2% - men) have reported experiencing sexual trauma during their time of service; and

WHEREAS, current Department of Defense (DoD) reporting and security clearance processes hinder and discourage the reporting of sexual trauma regardless of the victims gender; and

WHEREAS, military sexual trauma (MST) victim services and legal support systems within DoD are broken and do not take the victim’s confidentiality or best interest in mind; and

WHEREAS, the effects of untreated MST can be devastating to the overall health of veterans and in the successful transitioning back into their families and communities: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls upon DoD to enhance its MST awareness programs by mandating consistent, sufficient and continuing preventative training of all military personnel. AMVETS further calls upon VA to continually improve its MST treatment programs for all, military health- and mental healthcare providers and disseminating evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to clinicians who care for veterans who have suffered from MST; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls upon congress to have strict oversight and enforcement of the availability of DoD provided treatment services, the immediate review and changes to current DoD reporting processes and to ensure adequate dedicated funding to DoD for the aforesaid.