Draft Resolution 14-15

SUBJECT: SUPPORT THE RUTH MOORE ACT

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, military sexual trauma is the term used by the VA to refer to experiences of sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that a veteran experienced during his/her military service; and

WHEREAS, historically many victims of MST who suffer from various, on-going forms of mental and/or emotional distress due to their experiences have received no acknowledgement of, or treatment for, their symptoms; and

WHEREAS, according to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), 86.5% of sexual assaults go unreported, meaning that official documentation of assaults may not exist; and

WHEREAS, many victims who have attempted to seek service-connected compensation and/or healthcare for a mental health condition incurred or aggravated by a MST incident, have failed, in part, due to this lack of official records of such incident; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the AMVETS National Legislative Department advocate for and do everything possible to support passage of HR 671/S294, the Ruth Moore Act of 2013 which would allow service-connection to be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.