DRAFT RESOLUTION 15-26
SUBJECT: VA AND DOD MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING AND PROGRAMS
SOURCE: AZ, MO, FL, WA, TN, VA, IL, DC, NJ, MA, MD, OH, IN, WI, CT, PA, CA, TX, ND, MN,

WHEREAS, AMVETS acknowledges the benefits accrued to veterans through implementation of the VAs national Mental Health Strategic Plan and the President’s August 31, 2012 Executive Order to improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 VA provided specialized mental health services to more than 1.3 million veterans and 37% of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have enrolled for VA care, sought health-care services and have received mental health diagnoses; and

WHEREAS, despite progress in hiring additional mental health staff, AMVETS remains concerned about how VA plans to resolve its mental health staffing issues to meet demand and provide timely access for these critical services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS calls on Congress to require VA to develop performance measures and provide an assessment of resource requirements, expenditures and outcomes in its mental health programs, as well as a firm completion date for full implementation of the components of the full Uniformed Mental Health Services package; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly encourage both the VA and DoD to ensure that veterans and service members receive adequate screening for their mental health needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS strongly encourage VA to ensure that all professional staff are provided specialized training and orientation to the current roles and experiences of the men and women returning from theaters of combat, taking care to acknowledge the unique post-deployment mental health challenges faced by women; and be it further

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.