RESOLUTION 16–30

WOMEN VETERANS’ HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, women are a rapidly growing and important component of the U.S. military services, yet their contributions have often been under-recognized. Women currently comprise 20% of new recruits, 14.5% of active duty forces and 18% of the reserve components. While the number of male veterans is expected to decline by 2020, the opposite is true of women veterans; and

WHEREAS, women veterans have been shown to have unique and complex health needs with a higher rate of co-morbid physical and mental health conditions than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the availability and quality of health care for women veterans varies widely across the VA healthcare system causing an inequity in both quality and services. Less than 30 percent of VA facilities can provide women veterans onsite gender specific healthcare; and

WHEREAS, most male veterans can receive the full spectrum of primary and preventative care services in one visit, most female veterans must schedule multiple visits to receive the same gender-specific care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges DoD and VA to enhance their programs to ensure that women veterans receive high-quality, comprehensive primary and mental healthcare services in a safe and sensitive environment at every VA health-care facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urges DoD and VA to redesign and implement an appropriate health-care delivery model for women veterans and establish an integrated system of healthcare delivery that provides a comprehensive continuum of care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the DoD and VA need to ensure that every woman servicemember and/or veteran gains and keeps access to a qualified primary care physician who can provide gender-specific care for all basic physical and mental healthcare conditions prevalent in women.

SOURCE: Departments of AZ,ND,NJ,MO,FL,VA,IL,NM,KY,AK,CA,MA,WA,IA,OH,TN