DRAFT RESOLUTION 17 – 08

SUBJECT: Allow Hearing Aid Specialists to Provide Hearing Aid Services to Veterans as VA Providers.

SOURCE: DC, IL, FL, LA, NC, VA, OH, MA, TX, TN, MO, NJ, ND, WA

WHEREAS, many of the wounded veterans who have returned from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan sustained sensory injuries, including hearing loss and tinnitus, the treatment of which may require the use of hearing aids or other prosthetics to help those injured rebuild their lives, gain independence and restore their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, hearing health in this country is often overlooked and, while health, dental and vision insurance are readily available, coverage for hearing problems is harder to find and even harder to afford. The fact that auditory deficiencies are invisible, makes acknowledgement of their validity that much harder; and

WHEREAS, it’s time to acknowledge and validate the needs of the ever-growing cohort of hearing impaired veterans, who will need to have lifelong access to hearing health technicians who can keeps their prosthetics fine-tuned and working to their best ability; and

WHEREAS, since not every hearing related problem needs the highly specialized care of an Audiologist or an Otolaryngologist (ENT), the inclusion of Hearing Aid Specialists would help fill a void in the VA healthcare delivery system while simultaneously improving hearing healthcare access, service and outcomes for veterans; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS support legislation to encourage the addition of Hearing Aid Specialists in order to strengthen the VA’s hearing healthcare team thereby:

- reducing treatment and follow up costs;
- shortening appointment wait times; and
- shortening veteran travel time by providing access in rural and urban settings.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS……………………ADOPT □ AMEND □ REJECT □ NONE □
FLOOR ACTION: ADOPTED □ ADOPTED (as amended) □ REJECTED □ TABLED □