DRAFT RESOLUTION 17 - 23

SUBJECT: Support for Veteran Access to Medical Cannabis

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

WHEREAS, medical cannabis is currently legal in 24 States and the District of Columbia and an additional seven states have pending legislation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently gave formal approval to a controlled clinical trial to study the effectiveness of whole-plant cannabis as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in military veterans; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that impacts an estimated eight million Americans each year, including military veterans returning from combat, and to date there are no pharmaceutical treatments specifically designed or approved to target symptoms of PTSD; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that medical cannabis has the ability to effectively treat pain while allowing veterans to function with fewer debilitating side-effects, such as the mental fogginess that often accompany opiate-based painkillers; and

WHEREAS, the federal government directive which prohibits VA providers from recommending or even discussing the use of medical cannabis for their patients expired in early 2016 leaving VA doctors in limbo; and

WHEREAS, a number of lawmakers have written VA Secretary Robert McDonald urging him to let VA doctors discuss and recommend cannabis as a potential medical treatment in states where it is legal; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS work to preserve and protect the long established doctor-patient relationship including the ability to safely discuss medical cannabis use within the V.A. healthcare system without fear of punishment or retribution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS encourages the VA to allow veterans access to medical cannabis through their VA doctors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS support a veterans' right to use medical cannabis therapeutically and responsibly, in states where it is legal, if prescribed by a board certified medical professional.

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