

DRAFT RESOLUTION 19-13

SUBJECT: Support for Veteran Access to Medicinal Cannabis

SOURCE: HQ

WHEREAS, medicinal cannabis is currently legal in 30 states and the District of Columbia and a number of any states have decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) formally approved the first-ever randomized controlled trial to study the effectiveness of whole-plant cannabis as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in military veterans; and

WHEREAS, about 7 or 8 out of every 100 people will have PTSD at some point in their lives; approximately 8 million adults have PTSD during a given year; and about 10 of every 100 women develop PTSD sometime in their lives compared with about 4 of every 100 men; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that medical cannabis has the ability to effectively treat chronic 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 in 2017 the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) issued Directive 1315: *Access to VHA Clinical Programs for Veterans Participating in State-Approved Marijuana Programs*, which includes major changes that include adding policy to support the veteran-provider relationship when discussing the use of marijuana and its impact on health including veteran-specific treatment plans; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS encourages the VA to allow veterans access to medical cannabis through their VA doctors.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation

Benefits.....ADOPT AMEND REJECT NONE

Floor Action.....ADOPTED ADOPTED (as amended) REJECTED TABLED