

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 06-15-C  
SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan  
SUBJECT: Oppose any reduction of eligibility criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs per diem payments to State Veterans Homes

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, State Veterans Homes were founded for indigent and disabled Civil War veterans beginning in the late 1800's and have continued to serve subsequent generations of veterans for over one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, Today there are 133 State Veterans Home facilities in 49 states and Puerto Rico with over 30,255 total beds providing nursing home, hospital, and domiciliary care; with more capacity being added annually; and

WHEREAS, The State Veterans Home Program has proven to be a cost-effective provider of quality care to many of the nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, This program is an important adjunct to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) own nursing, hospital, and domiciliary programs; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA per diem payments for veterans residing in State Veterans Homes; and

WHEREAS, There has been consideration of limiting the eligibility for inpatient long term (maintenance) care to veterans in Priority Groups 1 through 3 and Priority Group 4 veterans determined to be catastrophically disabled; and

WHEREAS, Such a change would cause thousands of veterans who are now eligible for per diem to become ineligible; and

WHEREAS, Such a change could cause financial disaster to many State Veterans Homes that now rely on VA per diem for revenue; and

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WHEREAS,

Such a change could result in a new population of elderly homeless veterans, especially in states that have poor Medicaid nursing home reimbursement rates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED,

By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Lansing, Michigan, June 15-18, 2006, That The American Legion shall oppose any legislative proposal to reduce the eligibility criteria for VA State Veterans Homes per diem.