

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 17-14-C

SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan

SUBJECT: State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, Federal Funding for construction grants to State Veterans Homes has been static at \$85 million for the past three fiscal years (FY 2011 to 2014), however; in FY 2015 the VA budget proposed a decrease to this funding amount by \$5 million; and
- WHEREAS, The President's Budget request for 2014 included \$85 million for State Veterans Homes construction grants; and
- WHEREAS, The National Association of State Veterans Homes expects to see an increase in the number of State Home construction projects submitted in the coming years as more states are once again able to provide matching funds for projects that were previously withdrawn or deferred due to the recessions; and
- WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs has added a new type of Community Living Centers (CLC) which is referred to as a small house concept in which the house is a home for 10 to 12 residents; and
- WHEREAS, The home concept is based on the "small house" model, which is more intimate, less institutional and contains fewer residents to accomplish the goal of a home setting; and
- WHEREAS, The CLC neighborhood consists of not more than twelve (12) homes and a community center; and
- WHEREAS, This new home concept is leading to higher construction costs for new State Veterans Home projects and renovations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED,

By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Livonia, Michigan, June 27 - June 29, 2014, That The American Legion urge Congress to provide funding to the Departments of Veterans Affairs for State Veteran Homes construction grants at a minimum of \$125 million annually and that these cots permit sufficient funding to mitigate life-safety issues in State Veterans Homes, as well as the design and construction of new types of Community Living Center "small house" models.