

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 18-10-C

SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan

SUBJECT: Support Legislation to Institute Mandatory Psychological Screening For All Returning Global War on Terror, Operation Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Reserve and Guard Troops

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, With the Global War on Terror, and the two current components, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraq Freedom, there are more non-traditional soldiers to include reserves and national guard; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are currently approximately 150,000 service members deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, ; Approximately, 67,525 Operation Iraqi Freedom/ Operation Enduring Freedom veterans have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers; to include 16,851 at Vet Centers and

WHEREAS, Along with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a major by-product of these operations; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is an insidious disease from which no known resolve exists; only treatment; and

WHEREAS, The earlier the treatment, the better chance veterans will have a more productive life; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DOD) have yet to do an effective job of screening reserve and guard troops for PTSD; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED,

By the American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Dearborn, Michigan, June 17-20, 2010, that The American Legion, Department of Michigan, petition Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to institute mandatory psychological screening for all returning reserve and guard troops, and that this screening be mandated at 30, 90, 180 and 365 day intervals; and also prior to the expiration of their current entitlement to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.