

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: **C-16-15**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Michigan

SUBJECT: **State Veterans Home Funding for Construction Grants**

WHEREAS, Federal funding for construction grants to State Veterans Homes has been static at \$85 million for the past three (3) fiscal years (FY 2011 to 2014). However, in FY 2015, the Department of Veterans Affairs (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in the coming years as more states are once again able to provide matching funds for projects that were previously withdrawn or deferred due to the recessions; and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 the 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 constructions 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 Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, June 24 – June 26, 2016, 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 costs 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.