

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION: #22-30**

**SUBMITTED BY: Legislative Committee**

**SUBJECT: Support Funding for Suicide by Firearm Prevention in Our Communities**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** Every day twelve (12) veterans die from self-inflicted firearm injury; and

**WHEREAS,** Too little progress has been made to cut this number down, so the business as usual approach is insufficient; and

**WHEREAS,** We all have a role to play in preventing veterans and service member suicide in our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The Governor is asking for ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) towards evidence-based firearm suicide prevention programming in the MDHHS Fiscal Year 2023 budget; and

**WHEREAS,** Half of this money will go towards various community-based activities through the UM Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention; and

**WHEREAS,** That would include 1) Training and technical assistance for firearm injury prevention programs in communities, 2) Starting a voluntary out-of-home storage program, 3) Creating a real time injury surveillance database for law enforcement, community partners and health departments, 4) Providing training opportunities for community members, healthcare providers and law enforcement officers, and 5) Provide funding for innovative new firearms injury prevention programs with academic and community partners across the state; and

**WHEREAS,** The other half of this money will go towards supporting safer schools by providing training and technical assistance for school-based firearm injury prevention strategies including 1) Student care/threat assessment teams, 2) Anonymous reporting systems, 3) Restorative justice practices, 4) School well-being improvement, and 5) Evidence-based student leadership development for violence prevention; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 24-26, 2022, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan supports all efforts to get ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) toward this evidence-based firearm injury prevention programming in the MDHHS Fiscal Year 2023 budget; and, be it

**FINALLY RESOLVED,** That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, call upon all Michigan State Senators and Representatives to support the efforts to get this funding to reduce suicides in the State of Michigan by veterans and the public.