

Similar to <sup>no.</sup> 019

## IMPROVE MEDICAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, women are rapidly increasing and important component of U.S. military services, 14.5 percent of the 1.4 million are active duty. The number of women veterans is expected to grow dramatically, to 11 percent of the veteran population; and

WHEREAS, almost 280,000 women have served Post-9/11 in Afghanistan and Iraq. Women have more of a unique health care need than male veterans. The VA healthcare has traditionally focused on men; and

WHEREAS, more likely a single parent finding it hard to have child care services set up for their children so they can go to work, school, or local medical center; and

WHEREAS, women veterans who are a small minority of the larger predominantly male patient population, have created significant challenges for VA in assuring that it has adequate number of women's health providers at every location; and

WHEREAS, 58.4 percent of women who served in Post-9/11 have accessed mental health services in VA. So, women veterans will be seeking mental health services in ever increasing numbers, some due to military sexual trauma (MST) or sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, estimate of one of five women veteran patients had at least one VHA emergency department (ED) visit. With dramatic increases in the number of women veterans using VA health services, ED will need the necessary trained staff, supplies, equipment, and specific resources of gynecologic and obstetrical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, with the increase in female veterans serving in Post-9/11, the unemployment rate is higher among the males. In the next four to five years, almost 20,000 or so women will be ready to leave the military. It is a fact that unemployment leads to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the above is amended in Resolution No. 019; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 3 thru August 6, seeks to ensure improvement in medical services and specialized benefits for women veterans, by eligible women veterans are provided the same equal standardized care as the male veterans, to include counseling, psychological care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge VA improve tis womens' health programs, and seek innovative methods to address barriers to care, therefore ensuring that women veterans have the same standardized treatment they so deserve.

ASND Allen