

RESOLUTION 2014-1

SUPPORT FOR FULL CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, State Veterans Homes were founded for veterans after the American Civil War and have ably served disabled veterans for nearly 150 years; and

WHEREAS, every State operates at least one State Veterans Home, and more State Veterans Homes and beds and other programs within them are planned or projected annually to meet a growing demand for long term care programs and facilities for American's elderly, sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) promotes the care and treatment of veterans in State Veterans Homes as an important means to attain its goal of developing, providing and maintaining the highest quality of care for eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, the State Veterans Home program has proven itself to be the most cost-effective source of high quality long-term health care services for the nation's veterans who need skilled nursing, domiciliary, adult day health care and other specialized programs to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, State Veterans Homes provide 53 percent of the VA's long-term care workload at 16 percent of the VA total expenditures for long-term care¹; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of care in a VA Community Living Center (CLC) is \$1,021 per day² while the average VA prevailing rate reimbursement to State Veterans Homes is \$369³ - approximately one-third the average daily cost of the VA CLC; and

WHEREAS, Subchapter III of Chapter 81, Title 38, United States Code, authorizes the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program, funded by VA through Congressional appropriations, to assist the States through grants for construction of new State Veterans Homes and for significant renovations of existing facilities, at a cost not to exceed 65% of the total cost of any such project proposed by a State and approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, there are \$489 million in approved Priority One projects and \$928 million total in grant applications awaiting funding⁴; and

WHEREAS, the President's Administration request for an \$85 million State Home Construction Grant Program appropriation for next year will not keep up with the States' pace of grant applications for construction of new State Veterans Homes and significant renovation and modernization projects at existing homes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) supports full annual funding, at minimum an amount of \$250 million, for the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program, in order for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the several States to further reduce the structural backlog of worthy projects pending funding during Fiscal 2014.

BRADFORD J. SLAGLE, President
National Association of State Veterans Homes
Dated this 25th Day of February, 2014



¹ GAO-1489, Report to the Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives, December 2013

² Department of Veterans Affairs, Volume II, Medical Programs & Information Technology Programs Congressional Submission, FY 2013 Funding and FY 2014 Advance Appropriations Request.

³ VA FY2014 Rates for the State Homes Per Diem Program, VA 10N Memorandum dated October 9, 2013

⁴ VA State Home Construction Grants Priority List FY 2014.