

NASVH RESOLUTION 2016-1

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

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs 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, at less than half the daily cost² of the VA Community Living Centers³; 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 percent of the total cost of any such project proposed by a State and approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, there is a backlog of 109 projects totaling \$1 billion, including nearly \$500 million on the VA Priority Group 1 List⁴; and

WHEREAS, the President's Administration request for an \$80 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 modernization projects at existing homes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Veterans Homes supports full annual funding, at minimum amount of \$200 million for the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program in order to reduce the structural backlog of worthy projects pending funding during Fiscal Year 2016.



WILLIAM A. PETERSON, President
National Association of State Veterans Homes
Dated this 1st Day of March, 2016

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

² VA FY2016 Rates for the State Homes Per Diem Program, VA 10N Memorandum dated October 27, 2015.

³ Department of Veterans Affairs, Volume II, Medical Programs & Information Technology Programs Congressional Submission, FY2017 Funding and FY2018 Advance Appropriations Request, VHA-91.

⁴ VA State Home Construction Grants Priority List FY2016, December 7, 2015.

NASVH RESOLUTION 2016-2

SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO INCREASE PER DIEM FOR ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE FOR DISABLED VETERANS

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, Public Law 109-461 created a higher per diem to provide the full cost of skilled nursing home care at State Veterans Homes to veterans who have a 70 percent or more service-connected disability rating; and

WHEREAS, H.R.2460, introduced by Representative Zeldin, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans, would create a Adult Day Health Care per diem for severely disabled veterans, similar to precedent established in Public Law 109-461; and

WHEREAS, Adult Day Health Care is recognized as a crucial element in the continuum of providing safe, effective, and cost efficient long-term care to veterans; and

WHEREAS, medical model Adult Day Health Care program provides comprehensive medical, nursing and personal care services, combined with engaging social activities for physically or cognitively impaired adults; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Veterans Homes strongly supports enactment of H.R. 2460, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans, and provide full cost of Adult Day Health Care for severely disabled veterans.



WILLIAM A. PETERSON, President

National Association of State Veterans Homes

Dated this 1st Day of March, 2016

NASVH RESOLUTION 2016-3

**SUPPORT FOR THE IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION OF ADULT DAY HEALTH AND
DOMICILIARY CARE REGULATIONS BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs 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, after more than six years in the concurrence process, the VA finally published Proposed Rules modernizing regulations that govern Adult Day Health Care and Domiciliary Care programs for State Homes; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Rules, however, are not accompanied by realistic per diem rates that reflect the true costs of operating domiciliary and medical model adult day care programs; and

WHEREAS, at current per diem rates most State Veterans Homes will be unable to afford to operate these programs, despite being recognized as crucial elements in the continuum of providing safe, effective, and cost efficient long-term care to veterans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Veterans Homes urges the VA to provide more realistic per diem rates for domiciliary and medical model adult day health care in State Veterans Homes in the Final Rules for these programs.



WILLIAM A. PETERSON, President

National Association of State Veterans Homes

Dated this 1st Day of March, 2016

NASVH RESOLUTION 2016-4

**SUPPORT TO PROVIDE STATES WITH REASONABLE FLEXIBILITY FOR DESIGNING AND
CONSTRUCTING STATE VETERANS HOMES**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs 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, the new VA Community Living Center design and construction guidelines requiring smaller homes would impose significant financial burdens on States that seek to build new or modernize existing homes; and

WHEREAS, the VA small-house model has in effect doubled the required space for each veteran, and thereby, substantially increased the costs of construction and operations; and

WHEREAS, the VA has not proposed a corresponding increase in State Veterans Homes Construction Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, there is a backlog of over \$1 billion in State Veterans Homes in planned projects, yet the VA continues to request on \$80 million annually and require these projects meet new VA Community Living Center design and construction requirements; and

WHEREAS, unless Community Living Center design and construction guidelines are modified to allow states the flexibility to adapt to the needs of their respective veteran populations, states may not be able to meet the cost of operating new or existing homes that require renovations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Veterans Homes supports reasonable flexibility in planning and application of the VA's Community Living Center design and construction guidelines in order to best meet the individual State's needs and goals of its States Veterans Homes system.



**WILLIAM A. PETERSON, President
National Association of State Veterans Homes
Dated this 1st Day of March, 2016**