

Resolution 16
Rehabilitation Committee

Support the re-enactment of House Resolution Bill 271, COVER Act

Whereas, the Creating Options for Veterans Expedited Recovery Act or COVER Act was introduced in the House of Representatives on January 12, 2015, and

Whereas, thirty-one Representatives co-sponsored this act, and

Whereas, this act establishes the Veterans Expedited Recovery Commission to examine the evidence-based therapy treatment model used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for treating mental health conditions, and

Whereas, this act also requires the Commission to study the potential benefits of incorporating complementary alternative treatments available in non-VA facilities, and

Whereas, this act requires the study of potential increase in claims relating to mental health issues submitted by veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn, and

Whereas, this act directs the VA, upon a report by the Commission, to submit (1) an action plan for implementing recommendations and a time frame for implementing complementary alternative treatments, or (2) a justification for any determination that a recommendation is not appropriate and an alternative solution to improve the efficacy of the therapy model, and

Whereas, this act was forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee on May 15, 2015 where it lingered and died, and therefore,

Be It Resolved, that the American Legion Department call on the House of Representatives to resurrect this act to pass this much needed COVER Act, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the American Legion Department of New York, support legislative actions by the National Organization to work with Congress to bring the Cover Act back to life to enact the bill and improve the treatment options for our veterans, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the American Legion, Department of New York approve this resolution at its Convention in Syracuse on July 20-22, 2017, and be it

Finally Resolved, that if approved, this resolution be forwarded to the National Organization for consideration and action at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada scheduled for August 18-24, 2017.