

Providing Mental Health Services for Veterans
Submitted by
Georgia's 9th District Democratic Women's Network

Whereas, those that have served in the military have sacrificed much as they have served our country; and

Whereas, the Veterans Administration has stated that 22 veterans commit suicide daily; and

Whereas, it has been noted that veterans were waiting for months before receiving mental health treatment; and

Whereas, President Obama has attempted to provide help for our Veterans by signing into law the Clay Hunt Law so that veterans can have better access to mental health care, including adding more psychiatrists and by providing incentives to medical students to work in the VA; and

Whereas, leading up to passage of the Clay Hunt Law the Veterans of Foreign Wars pushed for even more help for our veterans; and

Whereas, access to psychiatrists and medication fills only a part of the mental health needs of veterans. Community and family support services are equally critical especially for the suicidal veteran. Likewise, the great distances some veterans must travel to a VA facility and the wide diversity of available community services results too often in fragmented treatment programs.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the National Federation of Democratic Women supports increasing the mental health services that are provided for our veterans, and we urge Congress to work with President Obama to appoint a Blue Ribbon Commission to determine how Congress can work even more with the Veterans Administration to maximize the delivery of services to our veterans.