

TO: House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees

FROM: Department of PA Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department Commander Dwight Fuhrman

DATE: January 24, 2018

Good Morning to the House and Senate Chairs and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you on two items of concern to our organization.

At the VFW State Convention in Pittsburgh our membership adopted a no smoking ban resolution. Since then we have been on the Hill a few times to ask Representatives of the House and Senate to support us on this Resolution by getting the Bill out of Committee and on the floor for a vote. In order to save time, I would like to read this Resolution to you as I feel it is self-explanatory. I will welcome any questions during or after this session.

(To be presented by Commander Fuhrman:)

WHEREAS: The Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars, since its founding, has stood for and Supported all veterans health issues; and

WHEREAS: by any and all medical and governmental reports, smoking and second hand smoke has been proven to be a known "carcinogenic"; and

WHEREAS: while Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars respects the rights of our veterans to smoke we also must respect the rights of the veterans who choose not to smoke; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars is always seeking new members to join our ranks by encouraging our post's leadership to maintain a quality operation conducive to all family members of our membership; and

WHEREAS: today a vast majority of eligible veterans are non-smokers and do not frequent smoking establishments; and

WHEREAS: To prevent further erosion of our membership and entice new members to join our ranks we must address the health factor for all members and families, (children and spouses), of our posts; and

WHEREAS: Legislation to ban smoking in all PLCB licensed establishments clubs, bars and restaurants across our Commonwealth would provide an even playing field for all entities: now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That The Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars 2017 Convention meeting in regular session June 14-17, 2017 at the GreenTree, Pittsburgh, PA, hereby support legislation to ban all smoking in PLCB establishments throughout our Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council seeking their support; and be it finally

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and members of the Pennsylvania Senate and General Assembly for their immediate action.

In light of our resolution we are asking you to join us in this effort in supporting the Smoking Ban legislations.

Last year we were left out of the budget for increasing the current level of funding for Act 66 outreach programs. So again this year we are in full support of the legislative goals of the Pennsylvania Veterans War Council Organization, which includes increased funding for Act 66.

So in closing thank you again for this opportunity to address you.