



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

900 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219

*Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
Fleet Reserve Association
Korean War Veterans Association
Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the World Wars
National Association for Uniformed Services Navy Seabee Veterans of America
Non-Commissioned Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association*

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Position Paper 2016-01 Veterans Care Centers

1. **OBJECTIVE:** to ensure the continued commitment of the Commonwealth of Virginia to the construction of veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - a. Virginia's veterans care centers deliver skilled nursing, domiciliary, Alzheimer's/dementia care, and short-term rehabilitation to Virginia veterans. Virginia currently has 440 beds at veterans care centers in Richmond and Roanoke.
 - b. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) awards grants that fund up to 65% of project costs for state veterans care centers. States must fund at least 35%.
 - c. Grants are awarded in accordance with the grant priority system established by 38 C.F.R. §59.50. In many years, the amount of federal funds requested by the states exceeds the amount available to be awarded.
 - d. Based on the continued commitment of the Commonwealth to the construction of veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, the 2015 General Assembly unanimously approved Governor McAuliffe's amendments to four bills.
 - e. The bills authorize \$66.7M in state bond funds to be spent prior to the award of a federal grant. It is estimated that this amount will provide for the design of two 120-bed centers and the construction of one (estimated to begin in 2017).
 - f. Approval of additional state bond funding in 2016 will allow for the construction of both centers.
 - g. The net result will be to bring the two centers on line several years earlier, while Virginia waits for the federal share of project funding.
3. **DISCUSSION:** Continued state commitment to build the centers reflects a positive commitment to Virginia's veterans and will hopefully result in reimbursement from VA grant funds in the future.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly continue state support for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center construction projects by appropriating additional state funding to complete the construction of both centers.