The American Legion

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OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

January 10, 2018

The Honorable Mike Coffman
United States House of Representatives
2443 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Coffman:

On behalf of the 2 million members of The American Legion we express support for H.R. 4099, to amend title 38, United States Code, seeking to ensure that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of the amounts of certain per diem grants.

This bill, as currently written, would provide the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary with the authority to reimburse the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program providers at a 50% rate for the costs of housing minor dependent(s) of homeless veterans while the veteran is receiving services from the grant recipient. The American Legion supports the goal of this legislation to address the unintended consequence of creating a disincentive for GPD providers to serve homeless veterans with children.

The GPD program allows the VA to award grants to community-based agencies to create transitional housing programs and offer per diem payments. The purpose of the program is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and supportive services with the goal of helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skills levels, income, and obtain greater self-management.

Through Resolution number 325, entitled *Support Funding and Changes to VA's Grant and Per Diem Program,* passed at the National Convention in 2016, The American Legion supports Congress authorizing and making appropriations for the Grant and Per Diem program to the level of need demonstrated in communities.

Congressman Coffman, The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing issues that are important to America's servicemembers, veterans and their families.

For God and Country,

Denise H. Rohan

DENISE H. ROHAN
National Commander