

**DoD Written Informed Consent to Medical Treatment**

**(4: Health and Dental Care)**

**Resolution No. 23-04**

**WHEREAS**, a black box warning on prescriptions is the most serious type of warning that the Food and Drug Administration gives to medication(s) which can have serious consequences to the health and wellbeing of service members and impact to their military duty status; and

**WHEREAS**, FDA Industry Guidance states “A persistent or significant incapacity or substantial disruption of the ability to conduct normal life functions” or “A life-threatening adverse event” may occur from black box medications; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense reported that there has not been a decline in suicide rates for serving members of the Reserve and National Guard despite their efforts to reduce suicides, according to the *DoD Annual Report on Suicide in the Military: Calendar Year 2021*, released Oct. 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, antidepressants are prescribed for patients who have PTSD and in 2004, the FDA required black-box warnings on antidepressants indicating that they were associated with an increased risk of suicidal ideation and behavior in young people; and

**WHEREAS**, use of certain medications and medical conditions can either temporarily or permanently affect a service members military readiness status, making them a non-deployable asset; and

**WHEREAS**, written informed consent on drugs would allow service members to work with their medical provider to find treatments that would not provide negative impacts to them or their ability to function; and

**WHEREAS**, written informed consent will ensure clarity throughout the prescription process for providers and patients;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Reserve Officers Association, d.b.a. Reserve Organization of America, compel the Secretary of Defense to ensure patients prescribed black box warning drugs provide written informed consent prior to any authorization or agreement to undergo such medical intervention; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that DoD be required to identify any drugs that service members who die from suicide have been prescribed and include such data in the DoD Annual Report on Suicide.

Adopted by the National Convention, 1 Oct. 2023

Amendments to Dept. of VA resolution (passed Aug. 29) submitted and endorsed by national.