

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Reps. LaFave, Tate, Markkanen, Mueller, Yaroch, Reilly, Hood, Bellino, Griffin, Hall, Howell, Iden, O'Malley, Paquette, Rendon, VanWoerkom and Wentworth offered the following concurrent resolution:

1           A concurrent resolution to call on the Michigan Veterans'  
2 Facility Authority to ensure plans for the new state veterans homes  
3 include designated smoking areas.

4           Whereas, The state of Michigan has committed to the process of  
5 updating its system of veterans homes to create a sustainable and  
6 responsive network of homes that meets the long-term care and aging  
7 needs of all Michigan veterans. One of the first steps in this  
8 process is replacing the outdated Grand Rapids Home for Veterans  
9 with a new and improved facility and building a new home in Macomb  
10 County; and

11           Whereas, The proposed architectural drawings for the new homes  
12 in Grand Rapids and Macomb County do not include designated smoking

1 areas. Michigan's two current veterans homes provide smoking areas;  
2 and

3       Whereas, Many veterans are smokers. According to the Centers  
4 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), three out of every ten  
5 veterans use tobacco products, primarily smoking tobacco. In  
6 Michigan, that means around 175,000 veterans may be smokers at the  
7 time the new Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is scheduled to open;  
8 and

9       Whereas, Smoking was a regular part of military life and  
10 encouraged by our Armed Forces. For decades, the C-rations issued  
11 to the members of the military in the field included cigarettes.  
12 Many veterans entered military service nonsmokers but left a  
13 regular smoker; and

14       Whereas, The 2016 Michigan Veterans Workgroup envisioned a  
15 network of regional veterans homes that ensures every veteran gets  
16 the right care and is a destination for all veterans in that  
17 region. This legislative body shares that vision, and it was an  
18 important consideration in the Legislature's approval of \$42  
19 million in funding for the construction of two new veterans homes,  
20 including the new Grand Rapids Home for Veterans; and

21       Whereas, New veterans homes will fail to meet the vision of  
22 serving all veterans without the inclusion of designated smoking  
23 areas. Veterans will not feel welcome or comfortable at a home that  
24 does not accommodate smoking and travelling long distances to homes  
25 with smoking areas would defeat the goal of easily accessible  
26 regional care. A lack of smoking areas will create a barrier to  
27 nearly a third of Michigan veterans receiving the care they have  
28 earned and deserve through service to our country; now, therefore,  
29 be it

1           Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate  
2           concurring), That we call on the Michigan Veterans' Facility  
3           Authority to ensure plans for the new state veterans homes include  
4           enclosed, climate-controlled designated smoking areas attached to  
5           buildings; and be it further

6           Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
7           members of the Michigan Veterans' Facility Authority Board of  
8           Directors.