

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-021 VETERANS SERVICES GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, MCL 35.623a(5)(a), as amended, establishes a "base amount" of \$50,000 per County for "veterans service operations;" and

WHEREAS, MCL 35.623a(5)(b) provides for a "per capita amount" for the "number of veterans residing in each county;" and

WHEREAS, the plain language of MCL 35.623a(5) provides that disbursements to counties are to be determined by "combining" these amounts; and

WHEREAS, the distinction between a "base amount" of \$50,000 per year and a variable "per capita amount" strongly suggests that the base amount may be interpreted as being fixed; and

WHEREAS, the statute can reasonably be interpreted to mean that the \$50,000 base amount would be ongoing, and would thus sustain County initiatives, provided the County complied with the provisions of MSC 35.623a; and

WHEREAS, the Gladwin County Department of Veterans Affairs has taken all steps prescribed by MVAA to achieve the eligibility requirements established in MCL 35.623a and thus to qualify for continued funding into the new fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Gladwin County has, in fact, relied on this "fixed" base amount in implementing plans for services to veterans, to wit, hiring a highly qualified part-time Veterans Service Officer, with further plans to fund their VA Accreditation Training; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has a long history of promoting an increase in the number of Veterans Administration Accredited Representatives to serve Michigan Veterans; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to disbursing the statutorily mandated funds for 2019, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency briefed the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors that the grant funding is programmed to be reduced to a \$25,000 "base amount" for Fiscal Year 2020 due to funding constraints; and

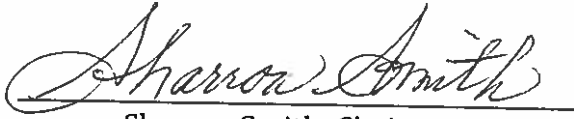
WHEREAS, this reduction contravenes the plain language of the statute and will undermine steps taken by Gladwin County to provide services to our veterans; and

NOW, THEREFORE,, be it resolved, that the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners urges compliance with the plain language of MCL 35.623a, and calls upon the State Legislature and the Governor to fully fund the County Veterans Service Fund Grant in FY 2020 and beyond; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Whitmer, Senator Stamas, Representative Wentworth, the Michigan Association of Counties, and Veterans Services Offices in all Michigan counties.

Certification I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on \_\_\_ in the

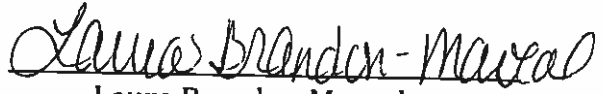
Commissioners' meeting room in the Gladwin County Courthouse, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharron Smith, Chair  
Gladwin County Commissioners

Dated: August 13, 2019



Laura Brandon-Maveal,  
Gladwin County Clerk