

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk  
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

RESOLUTION #2019-11

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 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 counties to provide services to our veterans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Alger 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

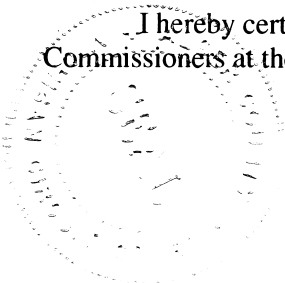
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Whitmer, Senator McBroom, Representative Cambensy, the Michigan Association of Counties, and Veterans Services Offices in all Michigan counties.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Alger County Board of Commissioners at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary Ann Froberg, Alger County Clerk



Dated: June 17, 2019

## **Facts Supporting the Resolution**

- The U.P. MI Choice Program is operated by UPCAP and uses a network of providers including county agencies, community action agencies, commissions on aging and home care agencies, etc.
- The U.P. MI Choice Program serves over 450 individuals in every county of the U.P.
- UPCAP has been operating the MI Choice Program since 1988 and has a client satisfaction rate of 98%.
- UPCAP is a charitable private non-profit agency with a board composed of county commissioners from each of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties.
- The for-profit integrated care organization mentioned in the boilerplate is a for-profit insurance company ultimately controlled by a group of investors and corporate citizens.
- The for-profit insurance company has less than two-years of experience in serving home and community based long term care clients and that experience is met through a contract with UPCAP and its provider network.