

**American Legion**

**Department of Massachusetts**

**24 Beacon St, State House RM 546-2**

**Boston, MA 02133**

**617 727 2966**

04/23/2024

Re: Hero Act

Greetings,

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts remains opposed to the passage of the Hero Act. The reason for our opposition is due to the cancellation of the Veteran License Plate program in the Hero Act. The fund from this program is used for the two Veterans Homes at Chelsea and Holyoke. The total loss of funds from the Veteran License Program to the two Veterans Homes is $1, 000, 000 per year. The American Legion Department of Massachusetts Family 35,000 strong and largest veterans’ organization in the world will continue to ensure and oppose any effort to reduce funding to the two Veterans Homes in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These funds are used for the veterans in these homes for recreation and personal care needs which are currently not covered by the home’s operational budget. Recreation and personal care items give our veterans dignity and a sense of self-worth. Our fellow veterans have earned the right to live in dignity and The Hero Act plan to defund the Veteran License Program does not provide dignity but strips dignity from the veterans.

Sincerely,

 John “Jake”Comer Paul Morin Sandra Davis

Past National Commander Past National Commander Department Commander