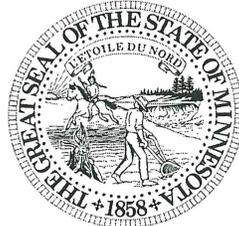


# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



**MARK DAYTON**  
**GOVERNOR**

### **Executive Order 15-17**

#### **Recognizing The Training Of Mental Health Counselors For Military Veterans Through The American Red Cross As An Appropriate Use of Leave**

**I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

**Whereas**, the need for mental health counselors for military veterans is significant both in Minnesota and throughout the United States;

**Whereas**, the American Red Cross is an internationally recognized organization providing quality services to those in need;

**Whereas**, the American Red Cross operates a program that trains mental health counselors specifically to work with military veterans and their families;

**Whereas**, Minnesota Statutes 43A.185 allows state employees who are certified disaster service volunteers to take paid leave from work, not to exceed 15 work days in each year, to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the American Red Cross; and

**Whereas**, training mental health counselors for military veterans is currently not explicitly recognized as a form of specialized disaster relief services by the State of Minnesota.

**Now, Therefore**, I hereby order that:

1. Minnesota Management and Budget recognize the training of mental health counselors for military veterans through the American Red Cross as an appropriate use of leave time as it applies to Minnesota Statutes 43A.185.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 2, this executive order will be effective fifteen (15) days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and will remain in effect, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

**In Testimony Whereof**, I have set my hand on this 1st day of December, 2015.



**Mark Dayton**  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

