

**NINETY-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
August 26, 27, 28, 2014**

**Resolution No. 35: Oppose Any Reductions to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Budget  
Due to Sequestration**

**Origin: Kentucky**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, The failure of the bipartisan Congressional Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, or "supercommittee" in 2011 resulted in automatic spending cuts, known as "sequestration", which took effect in 2012; and

WHEREAS, In an April 23, 2012 letter to the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Management and Budget made it clear that "all programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including Veterans' Medical Care, are exempt from 'sequestration' under provisions of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985"; and

WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Research Service Report on "Budget 'Sequestration' and Selected Program Exemptions and Special Rules," "the Budget Control Act (BCA) requires that \$109 billion in spending – divided equally between defense and nondefense must be reduced in FY 2014 (and each subsequent fiscal year through FY 2021) – with lowering the discretionary spending limits by about \$91 billion and sequestering \$18 billion in nonexempt mandatory spending"; and

WHEREAS, The lowering of discretionary spending limits or sequestration will have a detrimental impact on VA's budget and ability to properly care for and treat our nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion oppose any effort through the Administration, members of Congress or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposal, policy or law to reduce VA's budget due to sequestration; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to enact legislation to provide a permanent exemption for VA's Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administrations' mandatory and discretionary programs.**