

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

**Resolution No. 16: Assured Funding for VA Medical Care**

**Origin: Georgia**

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

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) annual budget consists of both mandatory and discretionary funding; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory funding refers to a process where the level of funding is governed by formulas or criteria set forth in authorizing legislation rather than by appropriations; and

WHEREAS, Under budget law, a mandatory program is one that requires provision of benefits to all who meet the eligibility requirements of the law; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory funding is provided for programs such as Social Security, Medicare and VA compensation and pension; and

WHEREAS, In contrast, discretionary funding is “all other” funding subject to the annual appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, Discretionary funding in VA’s current annual budget provides for programs such as medical care, major and minor construction, National Cemetery Administration, State Extended Care Facility Grants, and State Cemetery Grants; and

WHEREAS, There have been annual struggles to obtain sufficient funding to provide access to quality care for eligible veterans seeking care in VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, A method to provide dependable, stable and sustained funding for veterans health care is needed; and

WHEREAS, Assured (mandated) funding is one component of a combination of funding mechanisms to ensure adequate Veterans Health Administration funding; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That Congress designate assured funding for VA medical care; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That Congress continue to provide discretionary funding required to fully operate other programs within the Veterans Health Administration’s (VHA) budgetary jurisdiction; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That Congress provide, if necessary, supplemental appropriations for budgetary shortfalls in VHA’s mandated and discretionary appropriations to meet the health care needs of America’s veterans.**