# Table of Contents

**Legislative Resolutions** .................................................................................................................................................. 2

Establish “National Family Week”................................................................................................................................. 3
Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of their Children ................................................................. 4
Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs ...................................................................................................... 5
Improving Services for Children Living in Foster Care ................................................................................................. 6
Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization ............................................................................................. 7
Maximize Efforts to Screen Children for Sickle Cell Anemia ....................................................................................... 8
National School Lunch Program ...................................................................................................................................... 9
Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties For the Production, Sale and Distribution Of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors ............................................................... 10
Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation ....................................................................................................................... 12
Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety ............................................................................................. 13
Protect Children From Unrestricted Media .................................................................................................................. 14
Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy ................................................................................................................ 15
Support Efforts to Immunization all Children ............................................................................................................... 16
Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care For Children And Youth Programs .................................................. 17

**Non-Legislative Resolutions** ........................................................................................................................................ 18

Alcohol And Youth ............................................................................................................................................................... 18
Authorization To Conduct National Children & Youth Conference ............................................................................... 19
Bill Of Rights For Foster Children .................................................................................................................................. 20
Child Welfare Foundation Participation With The Combined Federal Campaign ....................................................... 21
Childcare Services ................................................................................................................................................................. 22
Commending Children’s Organ Transplant Association ............................................................................................... 23
Commending Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) .............................................................................................. 24
Commending Mercy Medical Airlift .................................................................................................................................. 25
Commending Operation: Military Kids .......................................................................................................................... 26
Commending Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program .......................................................... 27
Commending Special Olympics ........................................................................................................................................ 28
Commending The JAYC Foundation .............................................................................................................................. 29
Establish Children & Youth Post and Department Certificate Awards ....................................................................... 30
Fireworks Safety ................................................................................................................................................................. 31
General Drug Abuse Statement ...................................................................................................................................... 32
Intellectual Disabilities ......................................................................................................................................................... 33
Youth Suicide Prevention Education ................................................................................................................................ 34
Support for Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ............................................................................ 35
Violence And Vandalism In The Schools ........................................................................................................................ 36
Statement Of Policy Regarding Temporary Financial Assistance Program .............................................................. 37
Addition To Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy .............................................................................. 42
Legislative Resolutions

Establish “National Family Week”

WHEREAS, One of the principles guiding The American Legion's Children & Youth Program is to maintain the integrity of the family unit; and

WHEREAS, The family unit is the center of our affections and the foundation of our American society; and

WHEREAS, No institution can take the family unit's place in giving meaning to human life and stability in our society; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of strengthening family life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the Congress to establish “National Family Week” during Thanksgiving Holiday Week as an annual observance.

Resolution No. 49  Spring NEC - 1977
Resolution No. 510  1982 National Convention
Resolution No. 597  1984 National Convention
Resolution No. 506  1968 National Convention
Resolution No. 477  1988 National Convention
Resolution No. 592  1990 National Convention
Resolution No. 531  1992 National Convention
Resolution No. 396  1994 National Convention
Resolution No. 274  1996 National Convention
Resolution No. 303  1998 National Convention
Resolution No. 306  2000 National Convention
Resolution No. 243  2002 National Convention
Resolution No. 393  2004 National Convention
Resolution No. 328  2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 335  2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 296  2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 265  2012 National Convention
Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of their Children

WHEREAS, A catastrophic illness is any illness or condition, acute or chronic, for which expenses are incurred that are not fully covered by a private insurer, federal or state health care assistance, or other financial resource; and

WHEREAS, When a child becomes ill or disabled, the cost of medical care alone can be catastrophic for the family; and

WHEREAS, Families of any income level may be faced with high uncovered medical expenses for their children; and

WHEREAS, Families with or without insurance are vulnerable to extraordinary medical bills; and

WHEREAS, Several states have enacted legislation to establish Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Funds to help families bear the excessive financial burdens associated with the care of children with special health care needs and disabilities; and

WHEREAS, These funds have been proven effective and are designed to act as a safety net for families from all walks of life who have excessive expenses related to a child’s medical needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion urges the federal government to expand the present federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant programs to include catastrophic illness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That department and post leadership are encouraged to urge state governments to enact legislation to assist financially those individual families faced by the catastrophic illness of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family.

Resolution No. 319 2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 315 2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 278 2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 251 2012 National Convention
Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs

WHEREAS, The illegal trafficking of drugs into the United States is one of the greatest threats to the welfare and safety of our citizens, particularly our youth; and

WHEREAS, The enemies of our Nation and way of life hope to destroy us from within by debilitating our most precious resource for the future, our youth; and

WHEREAS, The economic and social costs of drug abuse annually exceed the $100 billion mark; and

WHEREAS, The efforts to halt the entry of such illegal drugs may be seen as a war of will and resources -- a war that at the present we are not winning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion urge the President and Congress of the United States to appropriate funds that meet or exceed current funding levels for state, federal, and military drug trafficking prevention programs.

Resolution No. 505 1986 National Convention
Resolution No. 480 1988 National Convention
Resolution No. 595 1990 National Convention
Resolution No. 528 1992 National Convention
Resolution No. 399 1994 National Convention
Resolution No. 277 1996 National Convention
Resolution No. 307 1998 National Convention
Resolution No. 310 2000 National Convention
Resolution No. 246 2002 National Convention
Resolution No. 393 2004 National Convention
Resolution No. 325 2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 327 2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 288 2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 258 2012 National Convention
Improving Services for Children Living in Foster Care

WHEREAS, The American Legion affirms that all children need safe, permanent families that love, nurture, protect and guide them; and

WHEREAS, On any given day in the United States, half a million children and youth are in foster care, removed from their homes because of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, While foster care protects children who are not safe in their own homes, too many times what should be a short-term refuge becomes a long-term saga, involving moves from one foster home to another; and

WHEREAS, Social agencies, both public and private, and dedicated foster parents provide these children with a temporary or a permanent environment that will help them become the responsible citizen of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, These agencies and foster parents are finding it increasingly difficult to provide the basic needs of these children, such as medical and dental care, education, food, clothing, skilled social work, and other community resources; and

WHEREAS, These ends can be met only by increased funding and concerted public effort on the part of all citizens, governmental and private agencies, legislators, and others responsible and concerned for the future of these children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at improving services for children living in foster homes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with the leading national foster care organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children and Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate foster care programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That posts are urged to volunteer their talents and energies in behalf of foster children and are urged to make their communities aware of the vital role that adequate foster care services play in enabling these children to develop into mature, responsible and productive adults.

Resolution No. 317   2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 336   2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 297   2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 266   2012 National Convention
WHEREAS, Each day in the United States, an average of 2,185 children, 17 years and younger, are reported missing or disappear by abduction, run away or are lost to some unknown cause; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) was created in 1984 as a central resource and data clearinghouse for law enforcement, victims and their families, to aid in fighting for the safe recovery of missing children and the protection of all children from sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Today more children come home safely than at any time in our nation’s history, law enforcement is better prepared, and families are more alert and aware than ever before because of the tireless work of NCMEC and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, NCMEC’s overall recovery rate for missing children is 94.9 percent, demonstrating that the current system is working due to effective response of law enforcement, technological advances, and the general public paying attention to missing children photos; and

WHEREAS, Although NCMEC has made a significant impact in tackling this daunting problem, there is much that remains to be done for too many children still do not make it home, and too many are still victims of sexual predators; and

WHEREAS, Even one child disappearing is the concern of all responsible persons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at locating missing children and preventing child victimization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to appropriate funds that meet or exceed current funding levels for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to collaborate with national and state missing and exploited children agencies and organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children & Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role, at all levels, in locating missing children and preventing child exploitation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the departments and posts are encouraged to increase the public’s awareness of child victimization and its detrimental effects on the children and youth of our society and are urged to cooperate with credible organizations and agencies that seek to locate missing children in their states and communities.

Resolution No. 327  2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 330  2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 291  2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 261  2012 National Convention
Maximize Efforts to Screen Children for Sickle Cell Anemia

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long advocated the use of preventive medicine to protect children from many childhood ailments; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease (anemia) is an inherited disease of red blood cells which can cause life-threatening pneumococcal infections; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease affects 1 in 375 African American newborns born in the United States and smaller proportions of children in other ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, There is no specific treatment for children with Sickle Cell disease, but early diagnosis, treatment and counseling dramatically reduce the risk of infections and death; and

WHEREAS In 2007 the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force mandated screening for sickle cell disease in newborns in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion urges the maximum dissemination of information presently known about Sickle Cell disease; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the fullest use of any suitable procedure developed to screen all newborns.

Resolution No. 252 2012 National Convention
WHEREAS, There has been as expression of concern by health authorities and various national organizations with an interest in the status of proper nutrition among young people; and

WHEREAS, The National School Lunch Program and other federally-supported nutrition programs for children have demonstrated their effectiveness as evidenced by the reduction of health problems and improved performance among children; and

WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2010, more than 31.7 million children each day got their lunch through the National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, The National School Lunch Program cost $10.8 billion in FY 2010; and

WHEREAS, Since 1941, The American Legion has supported the National School Lunch Program and other related programs of nutrition for children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That Congress appropriate funds at or exceeding current funding levels for the National School Lunch Program.

Resolution No. 760  1980 National Convention
Resolution No. 507  1982 National Convention
Resolution No. 597  1986 National Convention
Resolution No. 478  1988 National Convention
Resolution No. 593  1990 National Convention
Resolution No. 527  1992 National Convention
Resolution No. 397  1994 National Convention
Resolution No. 281  1996 National Convention
Resolution No. 302  1998 National Convention
Resolution No. 307  2000 National Convention
Resolution No. 244  2002 National Convention
Resolution No. 398  2004 National Convention
Resolution No. 332  2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 316  2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 295  2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 264  2012 National Convention
Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties For the Production, Sale and Distribution Of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors

WHEREAS, Since 1960, The American Legion has maintained a position of complete opposition to the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials to minors (defined as children under 18 years old); and

WHEREAS, Present laws forbid the production, sale and distribution of pornographic materials to minors; and

WHEREAS, Any attempt to eliminate such protective laws from state and/or federal criminal codes would have a negative impact on our youth and society in general; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion strongly opposes any attempt to weaken our present laws governing the penalties for the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials to minors.

Resolution No. 681 1980 National Convention
Resolution No. 514 1982 National Convention
Resolution No. 476 1988 National Convention
Resolution No. 591 1990 National Convention
Resolution No. 529 1992 National Convention
Resolution No. 393 1994 National Convention
Resolution No. 280 1996 National Convention
Resolution No. 308 1998 National Convention
Resolution No. 303 2000 National Convention
Resolution No. 240 2002 National Convention
Resolution No. 395 2004 National Convention
Resolution No. 329 2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 319 2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 281 2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 254 2012 National Convention
Prevent Child Maltreatment

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, since its inception, voiced and demonstrated active concern about the health and welfare of children; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau reported that in 2010 more than 3.6 million (duplicate) children were the subjects of at least one report and over 702,000 of these children were found to be victims of child maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, The federal government defines child abuse and neglect in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of 2010 as “Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act, which presents an imminent risk of serious harm”; and

WHEREAS, According to CAPTA, child maltreatment encompasses physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and psychological maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, All responsible citizens have a valuable role to play in building strong communities in which families and children are valued and supported, and in which children are safe from all forms of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, There are concerned adults who care about this problem and will work to combat its degenerative effect on our society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at preventing child maltreatment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to collaborate with national and state child maltreatment prevention organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children & Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of child maltreatment prevention programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are urged to cooperate in all ways possible with organizations and agencies that advocate for child maltreatment prevention and are urged to promote and increase the public’s awareness of child maltreatment and its detrimental effects on the children and youth of our society; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges all educators, coaches, school administrators and all others responsible for children in any capacity to familiarize themselves with the warning signs of all forms of child maltreatment and report any suspected maltreatment to the proper authorities and ensure that these children are referred to the appropriate child protective service in their community; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue through its Children & Youth program, at all levels, to educate the public of their obligations and duties with respect to reporting suspected cases of child maltreatment.

Resolution No. 321 2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 331 2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 292 2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 262 2012 National Convention
WHEREAS, The sexual victimization of children is overwhelming in magnitude, yet largely unrecognized and underreported; and

WHEREAS, Statistics show that one in five girls and one in ten boys are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood, yet less than 35 percent of those child sexual assaults are reported to authorities; and

WHEREAS, The widespread use of the Internet to sexually victimize children presents an even broader threat to our children’s safety; and

WHEREAS, According to Highlights of the Youth Internet Safety Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice “one in five children (10 to 17 years old) receive unwanted sexual solicitations online”; and

WHEREAS, By far the most prevalent exploitive act reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is the production and distribution of pornographic images of children; and

WHEREAS, The lives of the children featured in these illegal images are forever altered, not only by the exploitation itself, but by the permanent record of it; and

WHEREAS, The impact of these terrible acts can devastate families and put children at risk of depression, disassociation, and post traumatic stress – symptoms that can last well into adulthood; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at the prevention, investigation and prosecution of child sexual exploitation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to collaborate with national and state agencies and organizations involved in the prevention of child sexual exploitation as determined by the National Commission on Children & Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in preventing child sexual exploitation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to raise community awareness about the prevalence of sexual exploitation of children and are encouraged to cooperate with law enforcement agencies, government entities and public/private organizations that seek to empower the public to take immediate and direct action to enforce a zero tolerance policy regarding child sexual exploitation.

Resolution No. 259  2012 National Convention
Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety

WHEREAS, According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, unintentional injury remains the leading cause of death and disability among children ages 14 and under in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, every day, more than 25,200 children ages 0-19 are injured seriously enough to require medical treatment, totaling more than 9.2 million children each year; and

WHEREAS, The top causes of unintentional injury-related deaths and disabilities among children and adolescents are automobile accidents, drowning, fire/burns, and suffocation; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that as many as 90 percent of unintentional injuries can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, A combination of education, environmental improvements, engineering modifications, enactment and enforcement of legislation and regulations, economic incentives, community empowerment and program evaluation is effective at reducing the incidence and severity of unintentional death and disability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at preventing or reducing unintentional injury among children and adolescents; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with the leading national safety organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children and Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate child safety programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to provide leadership on organized safety commissions and are urged to actively promote child safety at the state and local levels.

Resolution No. 322 2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 332 2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 293 2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 263 2012 National Convention
Protect Children From Unrestricted Media

WHEREAS, In the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion we pledge “To uphold the Constitution of the United States;” and “To maintain law and order;” and

WHEREAS, Movies, TV shows and TV news, and the Internet have become very explicit in describing and depicting various types of violence; and

WHEREAS, Organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have taken it upon themselves to defend such actions as the constitutional right of freedom of speech of the author, regardless of the potential consequences to minor children; and

WHEREAS, God has been rejected as a violation of civil rights; and

WHEREAS, The void has been filled with violence, vulgarity, racism, and every other form of moral depravation that can be imagined; and

WHEREAS, Laws governing such productions allows for a vast expansion of audiences at all media levels promoting a violent country without restraint; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion promote efforts to restrict the excessive use of violence, vulgarity and other forms of moral depravity in movies, TV programs, TV news and the Internet; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to conduct awareness campaigns to educate their members, their families and the general public about the potential dangers the Internet and other forms of electronic media pose to children and teenagers, and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commission on Children & Youth disseminate educational materials to inform department and post leadership about the dangers inherent in the media, in an effort to return the country to the God-given principles of life, liberty, and the true pursuit of happiness.

Resolution No. 250  2012 National Convention
Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been concerned with the health and quality of life issues surrounding its young people; and

WHEREAS, Despite declines since 1991, the teen birth rate in the United States remains as much as nine times higher as in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, approximately 410,000 births occurred among teens ages 15-19; and

WHEREAS, Childbearing has adverse consequences for teenage mothers and particularly for their children, contributing directly to mothers and their children being poorly educated, unmarried and lacking job skills; and

WHEREAS, The offspring of teen mothers have high rates of illness, mortality, educational and emotional problems, and often are the victims of child abuse at the hands of parents too immature to understand their baby's needs; and

WHEREAS, Preventing teen pregnancy is an effective way to address a range of other pressing social issues including poverty, child and family well-being, responsible fatherhood, workforce development, and out-of-wedlock childbearing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at reducing or preventing teen pregnancy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with national and state teen pregnancy prevention organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children & Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate teen pregnancy prevention programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to support and cooperate with organizations and agencies that seek to educate teenagers on the advantages of delaying pregnancy.

Resolution No. 334 2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 329 2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 290 2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 260 2012 National Convention
Support Efforts to Immunization all Children

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized that there is no place in civilized society for communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, Vaccination is the best protection against 16 major diseases; and

WHEREAS, Every state sets its immunization requirements for school-aged children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion reaffirms its position of supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccine to immunize children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are urged to provide leadership and support to stimulate local treatment and immunization programs so that children in every community may achieve the fullest protection against communicable diseases.

Resolution No. 256  2012 National Convention
Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care For Children And Youth Programs

WHEREAS, The American Legion has and will continue to do everything possible to ensure that every child has a home, health, education, character, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant has provided a foundation for ensuring the health of our Nation’s mothers and children; and

WHEREAS, The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant has operated as a Federal-State partnership for more than 77 years; and

WHEREAS, When the Social Security Act was passed in 1935, the Federal Government, through Title V, pledged its support of state efforts to extend and improve health and welfare services for mothers and children; and

WHEREAS, Title V funds are used by states and jurisdictions to implement a wide range of maternal and child health care programs (assessment, diagnosis and treatment for low-income children, long-term care for special needs children, rehabilitation services for blind and disabled children, prenatal care for women, and childhood immunization) and to develop comprehensive, family-centered, systems of care for children with special health care needs; and

WHEREAS, These programs are dependent upon the annual appropriation of funds by the Congress of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion affirms its support of the programs as outlined by the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant contained under Title V of the Social Security Act and urges the Congress to appropriate funds that meet or exceed current funding levels, to include all programs related to the Comprehensive Health Care for Children and Youth.

Resolution No. 312 2000 National Convention
Resolution No. 249 2002 National Convention
Resolution No. 392 2004 National Convention
Resolution No. 324 2006 National Convention
Resolution No. 326 2008 National Convention
Resolution No. 287 2010 National Convention
Resolution No. 257 2012 National Convention
Non-Legislative Resolutions

Alcohol And Youth

WHEREAS, The American Legion, for decades, has warned of the increased use of alcohol by teenagers and its detrimental effect on their home, school, church and social life; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol is the primary drug of abuse for our youth; and

WHEREAS, A recent Harvard School of Public Health study indicated that nearly one-quarter of college students binge drink frequently, a percentage that has increased since 1993 despite several highly publicized alcohol poisoning deaths and incidents of alcohol-related fatal injuries on campuses throughout this country; and

WHEREAS, According to the federal government the percentage of high school seniors binge drinking, CONSUMING five or more drinks in a row, rose from 27.5% in 1993 to 30.8% in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol is a powerful, mood altering drug that affects the mind and body in both predictable and unpredictable ways, and teens lack the judgment and coping skills to handle alcohol wisely; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol use is often linked to teen deaths by drowning, fires, suicide and homicide and is the leading cause of teen injuries with alcohol-related traffic accidents being the second leading cause of teen death; and

WHEREAS, Teens who use alcohol are more likely to become sexually active at earlier ages; and

WHEREAS, Young people who drink are more likely than others to be victims of violent crime, including rape, aggravated assault and robbery, and are more likely to have serious school-related problems; and

WHEREAS, Many national organizations, associations, medical and legal groups recognize alcoholism as an illness; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2000, That The American Legion urges all Departments and Posts to assist in alerting, informing, and educating parents, teachers, and other school authorities in their communities of the tragic results of alcohol abuse by youngsters; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments and Posts be encouraged to cooperate with other organizations and agencies concerned with this problem by discussing, formulating and disseminating the facts about alcohol and the threat it poses to our leaders of tomorrow.

Resolution No. 45 Spring NEC – 2000
Authorization To Conduct National Children & Youth Conference

WHEREAS, The purpose of The American Legion’s National Commission on Children & Youth is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to assure care and protection for the children of veterans and to improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home, preventing social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth, and maintaining a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s National Commission on Children & Youth is tasked with oversight responsibilities for national children & youth programs of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The training of those volunteers who actively participate in the various programs and activities of Children & Youth is vital to achieving program goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, The National Leadership and Information Conferences, discontinued by NEC Resolution 26 – October 13-14, 2004, were the only vehicles the Commission on Children & Youth had to educate volunteers and provide personal instruction on national children & youth programs and on current issues concerning child welfare; and

WHEREAS, The creation of a National Children & Youth Conference would serve as a viable means to educate children & youth representatives from all Departments, thereby strengthening the national child welfare advocacy role of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of the National Finance Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 10 – 11, 2006, That The American Legion does hereby authorize the National Commission on Children & Youth to conduct a Children & Youth Conference for Department Children & Youth representatives, beginning in the fall of 2007, and annually thereafter.

Resolution No.44 "Spring NEC – 2006"
Bill Of Rights For Foster Children

WHEREAS, The placement of children in foster care homes and institutions because of the temporary or permanent separation from the loss of the parents and other family members is hazardous under the best of circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The foster child is endowed and entitled to these rights inherently belonging to all children; and

WHEREAS, Because of their unique situation, the foster child requires special safeguards, resources and care, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 1-2, 1974, That it formally endorses the Bill of Rights for Foster Children as developed by the National Action for Foster Children Committee.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

EVEN more than for other children, society has a responsibility along with parents for the well-being of foster children. Citizens are responsible for acting to insure their welfare.

EVERY Foster child is endowed with the rights inherently belonging to all children. In addition, because of the temporary or permanent separation from and the loss of parents and other family members, the foster child requires special safeguards, resources and care.

Every Foster Child Has These Inherent Rights:

ARTICLE THE FIRST: To be cherished by a family of their own, this family being helped by readily available services and supports to assure proper care for the natural family, adoptive family, or by plan, the foster care family.

ARTICLE THE SECOND: To be nurtured by foster care parents who have been selected to meet their individual need and who are provided services and supports, including specialized education, so that they can grow in their ability to enable the child to reach their potential.

ARTICLE THE THIRD: To receive sensitive, continuing help in understanding and accepting the reasons for their own family's inability to take care of them, and in developing confidence in their own self-worth.

ARTICLE THE FOURTH: To receive continuing loving care and respect as a unique human being. A child growing in trust in himself and others.

ARTICLE THE FIFTH: To grow up in freedom and dignity in a neighborhood of people who accept him with understanding, respect and friendship.

ARTICLE THE SIXTH: To receive help in overcoming deprivation or whatever distortion in his emotional, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual growth may have resulted from their early experiences.

ARTICLE THE SEVENTH: To receive education, training and career guidance to prepare him for a useful and satisfying life.

ARTICLE THE EIGHTH: To receive preparation for citizenship and parenthood through interaction with foster parents and other adults who are consistent role models.

ARTICLE THE NINTH: To be represented by an attorney at law in administrative or judicial proceedings with access to fair hearings and court review of decisions, so that his best interests are safeguarded.

ARTICLE THE TENTH: To receive a high quality of child welfare services, including involvement of the natural parents and their own involvement in major decisions that affect their life.

-- NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 34 Spring NEC – 1974
Child Welfare Foundation Participation With The Combined Federal Campaign

WHEREAS, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation depends on contributions to have funds available to provide grants to other child serving nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, An annual fund drive is necessary to keep the trust fund growing to enable the work of the Foundation to continue; and

WHEREAS, The Combined Federal Campaign is the "United Way" equivalent for all government employees to include the active military services; and

WHEREAS, If The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is found qualified to be listed in the Combined Federal Campaign literature, it could realize some substantial donations from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, The Creative Direct Response organization has offered to act as an agent to accomplish all qualification work and contribution record organization; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed and approved by the National Commission on Children & Youth and the National Finance Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 19-20, 1994, That The American Legion work with the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to secure qualification of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in the Combined Federal Campaign; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute any documents necessary, and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same.

Resolution No. 31 Fall NEC – 1994
WHEREAS, The American Legion is deeply concerned about the quality of life issues surrounding our children and youth; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Center for Education Statistics there are approximately 21 million infants, toddlers, and preschool children under the age of six in the United States with more than 8.8 million of these children in child care; and

WHEREAS, Child care services have traditionally been providing care, supervision and protection for children of pre-school and early school age, when the primary caregiver is necessarily absent from the home; and

WHEREAS, A 2005 study by the Florida State University Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy found that high quality child care can accelerate children’s social, emotional, cognitive, and verbal development; and

WHEREAS, A 1995 study funded by the Smith Richardson Foundation entitled “The Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes Study” found that of 100 child care centers studied, 92 percent were providing inadequate care to infants and did not meet children’s need for health, safety, warm relationships, and learning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with the leading national child care organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children and Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate child care programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to cooperate with the state and community public or private agencies with day care responsibilities to the end that licensed child care facilities will be available to all children in our nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are urged to continue to encourage the adoption and implementation of safe and consistent licensing standards for childcare in facilities throughout this nation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts be encouraged to assist in raising the level of understanding among the general public about the needs of adequate child care, and urged to commit the resources to achieve a level of quality that is necessary for children to grow in a healthy and safe environment.

Resolution No. 255 2012 National Convention
Commending Children’s Organ Transplant Association

WHEREAS, It is the position of The American Legion that all children should have access to quality medical services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well being; and

WHEREAS, Children's Organ Transplant Association exists to assist patients who require life-saving organ, bone marrow, cord blood or stem cell transplants; and

WHEREAS, Children’s Organ Transplant Association seeks to assist all patients 21 years of age and younger in need of medical transplants; and

WHEREAS, Each day 15,000 children are waiting for an organ transplant and another 5,000 are in need of a bone marrow transplant; and

WHEREAS, Children's Organ Transplant Association assists families from across the nation with local fundraising efforts and a matching grant to meet transplant-related expenses that are not typically covered by health insurance; and

WHEREAS, Children’s Organ Transplant Association improves the lives of children and families in need of organ transplants and increases public awareness of their plight; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth has reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Children’s Organ Transplant Association for its humanitarian efforts on behalf of children in need of organ and bone marrow transplants; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission’s Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Children’s Organ Transplant Association as an expression of The American Legion’s congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 23 Spring NEC – 2014
Commending Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been an advocate of adequate social and protective services for children; and

WHEREAS, According to the U. S. Department of Health & Human Services, there are three million alleged cases of child abuse and neglect reported annually, with nearly one million of these substantiated and/or indicated as victims of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, a Seattle judge conceived the idea of using trained volunteers to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court, thereby providing the court with sufficient information and helping to ensure that the children live in safe and loving environments; and

WHEREAS, Due to the success of the initial program, judges across the nation began utilizing citizen advocates, and in 1990, the U.S. Congress encouraged the expansion of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program with the passage of the Victims of Child Abuse Act; and

WHEREAS, There are currently 933 CASA programs operating across this country, with more than 60,000 men and women serving as volunteer advocates for children; and

WHEREAS, Over 200,000 children are helped annually through CASA’s work; and

WHEREAS, Over one-half million abused and neglected American children are currently in need of safe, permanent homes, while there are only enough CASA volunteers to represent one-third of these children; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth has reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and their mission and aims to help and represent at-risk children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission’s Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) as an expression of The American Legion’s congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 29   Spring NEC – 2014
Commending Mercy Medical Airlift

WHEREAS, The American Legion holds that all children, veterans and their families should have access to adequate health services to assure their physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Organization of Rare Diseases there are 26 million people, 8.75 million who are children, that are afflicted with any one of thousands of rare diseases that urgently require distant specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The cost of providing specialized medical care to children, veterans and their families, to include transportation for life-saving medical treatment, continues to rise dramatically; and

WHEREAS, Mercy Medical Airlift is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving people in situations of compelling human need through the provision of charitable air transportation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has awarded this organization ten grants to further their mission of facilitating charitable long distance medical air transportation for all medically indigent, low income and financially vulnerable patients, thereby ensuring adequate access to distant specialized medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, Mercy Medical Airlift operates the only National Patient Transportation Helpline that last year responded to calls from 5,700 veterans/veteran family members and over 6,000 children and resulted in facilitating transport to more than 1,500 veterans and 2,000 children to distant treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth has reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Mercy Medical Airlift for its humanitarian efforts to provide children and families needed charitable transportation to distant treatment locations across the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission’s Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Mercy Medical Airlift as an expression of The American Legion’s congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 26 Spring NEC – 2014
Commending Operation: Military Kids

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its inception, has advocated for the interests of the children of veterans and to improve conditions for all children; and

WHEREAS, The children of deployed military personnel face unique family situations and would benefit by connecting to other children in similar circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Children of military personnel are especially vulnerable to being socially isolated and in need of a structured program that helps them cope with the hardships associated with military family life; and

WHEREAS, Operation: Military Kids seeks to enhance the lives of these children through community-based volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Operation: Military Kids seeks to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth have reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Operation: Military Kids for its efforts to enhance the lives of military children affected by deployments; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission’s Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Operation: Military Kids as an expression of The American Legion’s congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 24  Spring NEC – 2014
Commending Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program

WHEREAS, It is the position of The American Legion that all children should have quality health services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well being; and

WHEREAS, To obtain these services, families of seriously ill or injured children must often travel hundreds of miles to seek medical treatment at specialized children’s hospitals, thus causing the family to spend days and even weeks away from home; and

WHEREAS, This additional financial burden placed on the family coupled with overwhelming medical costs are difficult, and many times impossible for the family to afford; and

WHEREAS, Ronald McDonald Houses were created to serve these families by offering them a home-like atmosphere, regardless of the family’s ability to pay, where they can get the rest and renewal they need to be most supportive of their sick or injured child; and

WHEREAS, The Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program generates funds to help offset the costs associated with a family’s stay while their child is receiving specialized treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth has reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7-8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program that helps provide a home-away-from-home environment for financially-challenged families with seriously ill or injured children who must undergo medical treatment at a children’s hospital; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission’s Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Ronald McDonald House Charities as an expression of The American Legion’s congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 28 Spring NEC – 2014
Commending Special Olympics

WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities affect about one in ten families in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion since 1919 has advocated on behalf of our nation’s children to ensure “A Square Deal for Every Child”; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 335 – “Intellectual Disabilities,” adopted at the 88th National Convention of The American Legion, calls upon The American Legion “to alert the public through awareness and education programs designed to change the negative attitudes and prejudices concerning our nation’s intellectually disabled children”; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition, seeks to change negative attitudes and misperceptions about people with intellectual disabilities, replacing stigma and rejection with an emphasis on potential, ability and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion family, through our volunteer involvement and financial contributions at the department and community levels, has helped support the mission of Special Olympics for over 30 years, and continues to pursue ways to assist Special Olympics in their worthwhile endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Support of Special Olympics programs enhances the lives of children with intellectual disabilities and combats negative attitudes about the intellectually disabled through public awareness; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth have reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Special Olympics for its efforts to enhance the lives of millions of intellectually disabled children by providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in the United States and around the world; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission’s Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Special Olympics as an expression of The American Legion’s congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 27 Spring NEC – 2014
Commending The JAYC Foundation

WHEREAS, The American Legion advocates for the interests of the children of veterans and to improve social, mental and physical conditions for all children and to strengthen and maintain the integrity of the family unit; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 2,185 children are reported missing each day and 58,200 children are victims of nonfamily abductions each year; and

WHEREAS, The JAYC Foundation exists to provide reunification services to families that have experienced a severe crisis, challenge or conflict through the abduction of a family member or other trauma; and

WHEREAS, The JAYC Foundation provides intervention services to military families experiencing difficulties as a result of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that focuses on supporting resiliency, developing coping skills, communication and empathy to facilitate a stronger, cohesive family unit; and

WHEREAS, The JAYC Foundation provides school and law enforcement workshops that seek to raise levels of understanding, compassion and empathy amongst school children and law enforcement officers and officials to strengthen local communities through awareness of situations that can deteriorate the family unit; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Children & Youth has reviewed this resolution and recommends its approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends The JAYC Foundation for its mission to improve the lives of children and to strengthen families; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to The JAYC Foundation as an expression of The American Legion’s congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 25     Spring NEC – 2014
Establish Children & Youth Post and Department Certificate Awards

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Children & Youth for many years has prepared an annual report of Children & Youth expenditures and activities based on annual written department Children & Youth reports; and

WHEREAS, The national compilation of such reports has proven to be of immeasurable value in calculating the level of activity of the Children & Youth program and the dissemination of the report to the general public has reflected great credit upon the organization; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 558 of the National Executive Committee (October 1950) and Resolution No. 132 of the National Executive Committee (August 1952) originally established authority to recognize posts, districts and departments conducting outstanding Children & Youth programs by issuing certificate awards; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 36 of the of the National Executive Committee, (May 1981) titled “Rescinding of National Children & Youth Commission Resolution” authorized the rescinding of resolutions for various reasons, of which Resolution No. 558 of the National Executive Committee (October 1950) and Resolution No. 132 of the National Executive Committee (August 1952) were inadvertently rescinded; and

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Children & Youth continued issuing the certificate awards; and

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Children & Youth wishes to continue recognition of posts, districts and departments having outstanding Children & Youth programs with certificate awards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2012, That authority be formally reinstated for the National Commission on Children & Youth to continue its certificate awards that recognize posts, districts, and departments conducting outstanding Children & Youth programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commission on Children & Youth continue to issue and send the certificates to posts, districts and departments.

Resolution 61 Fall NEC – 2012
WHEREAS, Hospital emergency rooms in the United States treat nearly 10,000 fireworks-related injuries each year, with 45% of these injuries occurring among children under the age of 15; and

WHEREAS, The highest injury rate relative to population was for ages 5 to 9, with 8.9 times the risk for the entire population; and

WHEREAS, Fireworks can result in severe burns, fractures, lifetime disfigurement or death; and

WHEREAS, Every type of legally available consumer “safe and sane” fireworks has been associated with serious injury or death; and

WHEREAS, Fireworks typically cause more fires in the United States on the Fourth of July than all other causes of fire combined on that day resulting in direct property damage in excess of $25 million annually; and

WHEREAS, Public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals under controlled settings and regulations provide a safer alternative for children, families and communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2006, That The American Legion urges all Departments and Posts to assist in alerting, informing, and educating parents, children, community leaders, and others about the dangers of fireworks; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Departments and Posts encourage children and their families to enjoy fireworks at public fireworks displays conducted by professionals, rather than purchase fireworks for home or private use.

Resolution No.33 Spring NEC – 2006
General Drug Abuse Statement

WHEREAS, The first duty of government is to provide security for citizens and the Constitution of the United States articulates the obligation of the federal government to uphold the public good, providing a bulwark against all threats, foreign and domestic; and

WHEREAS, Drug abuse, particularly by our nation’s children and youth, constitutes such a threat, and is a hazard to our safety and freedom, producing devastating crime and health problems, and diminishing the potential for citizens to grow and develop; and

WHEREAS, Drug abuse, drug trafficking, and their consequences destroy personal liberty and the well-being of communities, draining the physical, intellectual, spiritual, and moral strength of America; and

WHEREAS, Crime, violence, workplace accidents, family misery, drug-exposed children, and addiction are only part of the price imposed on society, as drug abuse spaws global criminal syndicates and bankrolls those who sell drugs to young people; and

WHEREAS, Drug use and its consequences threaten Americans of every socioeconomic background, geographic region, educational level, and ethnic or racial identity, demonstrating that no one is immune and every family is vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, Prevention efforts are our first line of defense against illegal drugs, and organizations like The American Legion have programs designed for youth to keep them active, and to help them feel a sense of pride in the future of their community, state and nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7-8, 2003, That all levels of The American Legion be urged to continue their efforts to reduce drug abuse, as it affects our nation’s young people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion does affirm its support for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and that, to the extent possible, the Legion will work with the President of the United States, Congress, state legislators, and federal, state and local agencies, when, as an organization, the Legion believes changes or additions to our laws or government policies are necessary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support those initiatives designed to educate children about the real dangers associated with drugs, and seeks the involvement of parents, business and community leaders, school administrators and coaches, and other role models in a broad prevention campaign; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages families and institutions, including employers, law enforcement agencies, faith-based and community-based organizations, and health care providers to help drug abusers recognize their addiction and urge them to seek appropriate treatment; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That drugs and drug abuse must be attacked as a whole, which includes international relations, law enforcement, education, judicial reform, research, treatment and rehabilitation, to ensure that our nation’s children grow up as healthy and productive members of society.

Resolution No. 282  2010 National Convention
Intellectual Disabilities

WHEREAS, Historically, it has been The American Legion’s position that all children should have quality services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, According to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, it is estimated that between 7 and 8 million Americans of all ages, or three percent of the general population experience intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities cuts across the lines of racial, ethnic, educational, social and economic backgrounds and one in ten families in the United States are directly affected by a person with intellectual disability at some point in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Intellectual Disabilities in children is a complex problem with educational, medical, social, cultural and vocational aspects, and presents a major challenge to the social, educational, health, and economic systems within the United States; and

WHEREAS, About 87 percent of those children with intellectual disabilities are mildly affected and may not be identified until they enter school, and as adults many will be able to lead independent lives in the community; and

WHEREAS, The remaining 13 percent of people with intellectual disabilities will have serious limitations in functioning, but with early intervention, a functional education and appropriate support as adults, can lead satisfying lives in the community; and

WHEREAS, During the past 30 years, significant advances in research have prevented many cases of intellectual disabilities, and other early intervention and prevention strategies have reduced the chance of intellectual disabilities in children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2006, That The American Legion recognize and support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities to enjoy a quality of life that promotes independence, self-determination, and participation as productive members of society; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the goals of the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities:
   • The assurance of full citizenship rights of people with intellectual disabilities;
   • The provision of all necessary supports to individuals and families;
   • The reduction of the occurrence and severity of intellectual disabilities; and
   • The promotion of the widest dissemination of information of models, programs, and services within the field of intellectual disabilities;
become the goals of the The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support and encourage early diagnosis, intervention and treatment, increased professional staffing, expanded educational opportunities, family counseling, improved and new living facilities, and adequate social and vocational services for the intellectually disabled; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports continuing research, and preventive and early intervention efforts to prevent intellectual disabilities, to include research on the development and function of the nervous system, fetal treatments, and gene therapy to correct the abnormality produced by defective genes; and early intervention programs with high-risk infants and children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That whenever possible, The American Legion is encouraged to help alert the public through awareness and education programs designed to change the negative attitudes and prejudices concerning our nation’s intellectually disabled children.

Resolution No. 294   2010 National Convention
Youth Suicide Prevention Education

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, since its inception, been a strong advocate for the health and well-being of our nation’s youth; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 25; the third leading cause of death for ages 15 to 24; the fourth leading cause of death for ages 10 to 14; the second leading cause of death among college age youth; and

WHEREAS, Youth suicide education programs have been developed to educate parents, teachers, and other adults about effective suicide prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, Effective youth suicide prevention strategies have included the presentation of facts and the identification of the potential warning signs attributed to youth suicide; and

WHEREAS, Many schools and school districts across the nation have incorporated youth suicide prevention programs in the academic year for students; and

WHEREAS, Public awareness campaigns can also bring the problem of youth suicide to the forefront of parents and the local community; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7 - 8, 2003, That Departments and Posts of the American Legion cooperate in all ways possible to promote and increase the public’s awareness of the warning signs of youth suicide; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges all educators, coaches, school administrators and all others responsible for children in any capacity, to familiarize themselves with the warning signs of youth suicide; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages all schools to incorporate youth suicide prevention programs into their regular school curriculum, and provide youth suicide training for faculty and staff; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That legislation be sought through state legislatures to mandate youth suicide prevention education programs in each state which does not already address this problem.

Resolution No. 58 Spring NEC –2003
Support for Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Children & Youth is vitally concerned about the violent crimes committed by juveniles in this nation each year; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is organized: to develop and encourage the implementation of national standards for the administration of juvenile justice; to assist state and local governments in removing juveniles from jails and lockups for adults; to develop and implement effective methods of preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency, including methods with specific focus on maintaining and strengthening the family unit so that juveniles may be retained in their homes; to develop effective programs to prevent delinquency, to divert juveniles from traditional juvenile justice systems and to provide critically needed alternatives to institutionalization; and to coordinate all federal juvenile delinquency programs and all federal programs related to missing and exploited children; and

WHEREAS, The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention program now promoted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has proved effective in many states; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 31, September 1, 2, 2010, That The American Legion supports the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and its programs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the President and the Congress meet or exceed current funding levels for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Resolution No. 298 2010 National Convention
Violence And Vandalism In The Schools

WHEREAS, Juveniles account for approximately 25 percent of the total U.S. population and account for 15 percent of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) as reported by the 2003 FBI Uniform Crime Reports; and

WHEREAS, Although juvenile violent crime is at its lowest level since 1987, numerous government-supported institutions nationwide, specifically schools and housing, are still experiencing serious, violent acts of crime and criminal damage; and

WHEREAS, Our nation’s schools should be a safe haven for teaching and learning, free of crime and violence; and

WHEREAS, There is nothing inherent in the nature of schools that produces crime and violence, and problems in schools are almost always the result of problems, such as poverty, bullying, or alienation, already existing in communities and families; and

WHEREAS, Any instance of crime or violence at school not only affects the individuals involved, but may also disrupt the educational process and affect bystanders, the school itself, and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, Every child has a right to attend a school that is safe and secure, conducive to learning and free of fear; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2006, That The American Legion recommends school boards and national and state education agencies, in conjunction with parents and community members, develop and implement programs that create effective violence prevention strategies, to include consistent, fair and responsible “zero tolerance” policies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, The American Legion urges local law enforcement to implement effective programs for the amelioration of juvenile delinquency in coordination with the Department of Education, community citizenry and other agencies within the criminal justice system; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That local Posts urge and assist those in the educational community and criminal justice system to work closely together with communities and families in efforts to reduce the development and prevailing patterns of juvenile delinquency in schools and our communities.

Resolution No. 36  Spring NEC – 2006
Statement Of Policy Regarding Temporary Financial Assistance Program

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee has appropriated funds annually since 1926 for the payment of Temporary Financial Assistance to needy children of veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee and the national convention have, from time to time, given additional direction through resolution to the administration of said program since it was last codified and stated in Resolution No. 4, NEC, May 3-4, 1948; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to restate the policy, incorporating the changes established in Digest No. 4, NEC, May 4-6, 1949; Resolution No. 3, NEC, November 17-19, 1950; Resolution No. 3, NEC, May 2-4, 1951; Resolution No. 48 and No. 51, NEC, May 4-6, 1955; Resolution No. 33, NEC, April 30 - May 1, 1964; Resolution No. 2, NEC, October 12-13, 1966; Resolution No. 4, NEC, October 9-10,1974; and Resolution No. 36, NEC, April 30 - May 1, 1980; and

WHEREAS, The policy statement incorporating the mandates established by these resolutions has been reviewed and approved of by the National Commission on Children & Youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 2-3, 1990, That the following statement of policy relating to Temporary Financial Assistance is approved and shall govern the administration of the program.

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS ADMINISTRATED BY THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM AND CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION THE AMERICAN LEGION

Part I

I. GENERAL PURPOSE

The Temporary Financial Assistance Program of The American Legion shall have as its purpose:

A. “To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy,” and

B. “To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship; by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

The insurance of the integrity of the American Family home and the health and well-being of future generations are essentials to the purposes stated above. Funds made available for Temporary Financial Assistance shall accordingly be expended to provide direct maintenance of family homes and/or to contribute directly to the welfare and health of individual children.

II. PAYMENTS

Temporary Financial Assistance payments may be made in such amounts and over such temporary periods of time as are required to meet, or to help meet, the maintenance and/or health needs of eligible children from the time such need becomes known until such time as the family local community, state and/or Federal Governments have had a reasonable opportunity to provide or develop the resources necessary to meet the full extent of the need.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Eligibility

An eligible child is any child of a person who served on active duty in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States of America; or, who served on active duty with the armed forces of nations allied with the United States during World War I, World War II, Korean War, or the Vietnam war, provided such persons were citizens of the United States at the time of entry into such military service; any time during the following periods:
April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; “and any other dates that may be added by a change to the eligibility dates of The American Legion,” all dates inclusive, provided, however;
1. Such child is in need as determined by an investigation.
2. That there are no other resources available, or that those available are inadequate to meet the needs of the child.

B. Need

Need is defined as the condition which exists when sufficient resources are not immediately available to meet the requirements of an eligible child a hereinbefore defined. Since no two individuals are identical and since their circumstances, their requirements and their resources will differ, no two persons are likely to present the same exact need. The need of any person, however, may ordinarily be measured by relating his available resources to his total requirements and circumstances. Need for the purposes of this program shall be limited to maintenance needs and health needs.

1. Maintenance
a. Maintenance shall be deemed to include, but not limited to: (1) Food; (2) Shelter; (3) Clothing; (4) Educational Expenses; (5) Household supplies; (6) Insurance; (7) Fuel; (8) Incidental (9) Other needs as specified.
b. In no case shall maintenance be defined to include debts incurred prior to date of application; except that: (1) An allowance may be made to reinstate utilities; (2) Provision may be made for the continued occupancy of a residence if such residence is being purchased and would otherwise be lost.

2. Health Needs
a. Health needs shall be defined as: (1) Medical care; (2) Surgery; (3) Dental Care; (4) Pharmaceuticals; (5) Special Diet; (6) Hospitalization; (7) Nursing and convalescent care; (8) Other professional medical services.
b. Provided: competent medical authority determines such services as heretofore listed are necessary for the preventions, alleviation, or cure, of sickness or physical defect.
c. In no case shall health needs be defined to include services rendered prior to date of application, except that: (1) Preliminary approval for emergency care may be obtained by the quickest means of communication with final approval contingent upon a subsequent application being filed which shows the child to be in all respects eligible.
d. In no case shall health needs be interpreted to include any treatment or care solely for cosmetic purposes, except that: (1) Treatment or care for physical appearance purposes is permissible; provided, there is evidence that such care or treatment will contribute to the mental or emotional health of the individual.

C. Child

The word “child” shall be defined in line with present Veterans Administration and practices as:
1. A person who is unmarried and under the age of 18 years, however, if the person remains in an approved school and unmarried, TFA may be granted until the completion of education or training (high school), but not after the child reaches the age of 21 years; who:
   a. A legitimate child, or;
   b. A child legally adopted, or;
   c. A step-child, if living in the household of the step-parent, or;
   d. An illegitimate child, provided: (1) The father acknowledges parenthood in writing, signed by him, or (2) The father has been judicially ordered to decree to contribute to such child’s support, or (3) The father, prior to date of death, has been judicially decreed the putative father, or (4) The father, if dead, is otherwise shown by evidence satisfactory to The American Legion National Americanism and Children & Youth division to be the putative father in lieu of any of the other provisions of 1-d of this definition, or (5) The mother of such child, when qualified by virtue of her own military service, furnishes satisfactory evidence of birth of the child.
2. A person who over the age of 18, but under the age of 21 and, who meets all of the other requirements under 1 above, except age, and who is physically handicapped.

D. Investigation

The word “investigation” shall mean:
1. A personal visitation to the home or other whereabouts of such child by an official of an American Legion post or by a duly authorized person acting for him, and
2. An inquiry into and, when possible, verification of the need and cause of need, the probable duration of need, the resources and the development of plans for care of child at the cessation of Legion assistance, and
3. The recording upon an approved application blank of the facts ascertained together with investigator’s evaluation of those facts through the statements of the applicant, statements of other interested persons and the investigator’s own observations.

E. Resources

The word “resources” is defined as:

1. Finances and property within the family of the child which shall be deemed to include, but not limited to:
   a. Earnings and other income.
   b. Real and personal property: (1) The sale of essential real and personal property shall not be required.
   c. Intangible property such as stocks, bonds, savings, insurance, etc.

2. The temporary assistance that can be made available through The American Legion Post and American Legion Auxiliary Unit from their finances. (Funds from the sale of the poppy must be used for child welfare and rehabilitation.
3. Facilities, provisions and benefits established by law and supported with public funds for children of Veterans and/or for all children which shall be deemed to include, but not limited to:
   a. Benefits from United States Veterans Administration for Veterans and their dependents: (1) Widow’s and orphan’s pension; (2) Compensations; (3) Pension; (4) National Service Life or Government Life Insurance; (5) Readjustment allowances; (6) Burial allowances and other benefits.
   b. Federal Social Security provisions and/or cooperative state and local provisions: (1) Old Age and Survivor’s Insurance; (2) Unemployment Insurance; (3) Aid to Dependent Children; (4) General Assistance; (5) Other specialized services and aid including, but not limited to, local medical assistance, public health clinics, state resources for soldier’s relief, vocation rehabilitation, workmen’s compensation, etc.
4. Financial assistance provided through the Departments of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.
5. Any other voluntary help that may come to the child.

F. Temporary Financial Assistance

Temporary Financial Assistance payments are defined as money payments made on behalf of eligible children upon a monthly basis for a period of one two, or three months, except that:
1. Payments may be continued beyond the initial period of authorization upon the submission of additional evidence showing the need for additional payments, and a reasonable prospect for a definite improvement in the child’s circumstances which can only be effected through such extension.
2. The initial authorization for payments may be for a period longer that three months, provided the evidence showing in the application supports the necessity for a longer grant to meet special health needs of a child, and provided further that such longer initial authorization may only be made conditioned on regular reports to the Americanism and Children & Youth Division not less that quarterly and more frequently if considered necessary by the Americanism and Children & Youth Division.
Part II—(Administrative Policies)

IV. AMERICAN LEGION POSTS

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of Posts of The American Legion to:
1. Appoint, elect or otherwise designate, a qualified member as Post Children & Youth chairman or officer.
2. Provide such funds as are possible to aid in meeting the needs of children.
3. Enlist the interest and participation, financially and otherwise, of the Unit or the American Legion Auxiliary, the 40 and 8 Voiture and the 8 and 40 Salon which these affiliated groups are organized in their communities.
4. Cooperate with existing social welfare agencies of the community to improve services for children and to represent to such agencies the special needs of children whose parents served in the military forces during World War I and/or World War II and/or Korea and/or Vietnam.
5. Originate applications for Temporary Financial Assistance, as provided in Part I, when the needs of eligible children cannot be adequately met locally, and forward such applications promptly to the Department Children & Youth Chairman.

V. DEPARTMENTS

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of Departments of the American Legion to:
1. Appoint or otherwise designate a qualified Department Children & Youth Chairman whose responsibilities, insofar as Temporary Financial Assistance is concerned, shall be:
a. To receive applications for Temporary Financial Assistance from Posts.
b. Review such applications in the light of policies established herein and administrative procedures established by the National Organization.
c. Satisfy him/herself that the Post is making full use of all available resources.
d. To secure financial help from Department funds or from other state-wide sources when available.
e. To forward promptly to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division applications approved by him/her with recommendation as to amount of aid needed monthly and number of months needed.
f. To maintain, supervise the maintenance of, or cooperate with the Department Adjutant or other Department officials in the maintenance of necessary files, books, records, case histories, or other papers relating to Temporary Financial Assistance in such a manner as to prevent the release of confidential matters to unauthorized persons and to provide continuity of records from year to year.
g. To forward to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division an annual report of child expenditures and activities within his Department and the Posts thereof and such other reports as may be required.
h. To stimulate Posts of his state, Department officials, and officials of affiliated groups when it appears that the needs of children are not being adequately met and to represent within his state the special needs of the children of that state whose parents served in the military forces during World War I and/or World War II, and or Korea and/or Vietnam.
2. Make available such funds and facilities as are possible and necessary to discharge the responsibilities outlined in I. above.
VI. NATIONAL AMERICANISM AND CHILDREN & YOUTH DIRECTOR

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the National Americanism and Children & Youth Director of The American Legion to:
1. Receive applications from Department Children & Youth Chairman and review such supplications.
2. Interpret policies as set forth herein and determine eligibility for payment of Temporary Financial Assistance upon the merits of individual applications.
3. In the light of information presented in the application and in accordance with good child welfare practice determine amount of payment needed and period during which needed, and so recommend to the National Adjutant.
4. Carry on correspondence with Department Children & Youth Chairmen and other to clarify eligibility, ascertain needed service and rehabilitation work in addition to financial assistance, aid in development of permanent plans for children aided, recommended needed improvements in child welfare services within the state, etc.
5. Make such reports concerning Temporary Financial Assistance as may be required from time to time by the National Commander and the National Adjutant.
6. With the advice of, and subject to, the approval of the National Adjutant, devise and distribute application forms and such other forms as may be necessary to carry out the provisions herein stated.
7. Maintain all records, files, statistics, and other papers, except finance records which shall be the primary responsibility of the comptroller.
8. Annually, or more frequently if necessary, determine and recommend to the National Adjutant the amount of money necessary to carry out the Temporary Financial Assistance program of the National Organization for the ensuing year or other period.
9. As Director of the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division, advise the Children & Youth Commission of the operation of the Temporary Financial Assistance program, recommend such changes in existing policies as are deemed necessary from time to time, and secure from the Commission its advice and counsel.
10. Maintain continuous check on applications received and expenditures for Temporary Financial Assistance, and at such time as future need for Temporary Financial Assistance appears to exceed probable available funds, inform the National Adjutant and the National Commission and in cooperation with them take such steps as are necessary and proper.
11. Maintain cooperative relationships, with other agencies in the interest of improved services to children and represent to such agencies the special needs of children whose parents served in the military forces in World War I and/or World War II and/or Korea and/or Vietnam.

VII. NATIONAL ADJUTANT

A. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the National Adjutant of The American Legion to:
1. Receive the recommendations for Temporary Financial Assistance from the National Americanism and Children & Youth Director and authorize payment in those cases which appear proper.

Resolution No. 4     Fall NEC – 1974
Resolution No. 36    Spring NEC – 1980
Resolution No. 27    Spring NEC – 1990
Addition To Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee has appropriated funds annually since 1926 for the payment of Temporary Financial Assistance to needy children of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The current policy for the administration of the Temporary Financial Assistance program was stated in its entirety in Resolution No. 27, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, in May 1990; and

WHEREAS, Through the passage of time and circumstance many veterans now have in their custody grandchildren, with all the rights and responsibilities of parenthood, and in some circumstances this new family has placed the welfare of these children in jeopardy because the veteran and/or spouse is retired, disabled or on fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, Public assistance programs are slow to respond to this additional burden on the veteran and/or spouse caring for these children and the family is in need of Temporary Financial Assistance; and

WHEREAS, In addition to this circumstance, divorce courts are declaring joint physical custody of children on a more regular basis where the child(ren) stays with both the mother and father on an equal basis, stretching the resources of one or both parents; and

WHEREAS, The current policy governing Temporary Financial Assistance does not include grandchildren, unless they are adopted, nor address the issue of joint physical custody; and

WHEREAS, Guidance provided by Veterans Administration rules and practice, used to formulate the definition of "child" as used in the administration of the Temporary Financial Assistance program of The American Legion, does now include guidance for the benefits a child(ren) in joint physical custody or a child(ren) in the custody of the veteran, who is other than a legitimate child, a child legally adopted, a step-child, or an illegitimate child; and

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Children & Youth recommends the inclusion of these custody conditions in the definition of "child" for the administration of the Temporary Financial Assistance program to enhance the program and benefit these children and veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2000, That Section III-Definitions, Paragraph C-Child, Subsection 1, of the Temporary Financial Assistance Policy as stated in Resolution No. 27, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 2-3, 1990, be amended by adding the following two paragraphs:

e. A child (not included in 1(a-d) above) in custody of the veteran, or spouse of the veteran, living in the household of the veteran or surviving spouse, provided:

   (1) The veteran or spouse of the veteran is legally responsible for the child and has the legal right to exercise parental control and responsibility for the welfare and care of the child as stipulated by court order, or other legal documentation, transferring custody of the child to the veteran or spouse of the veteran, or

f. A child in joint physical custody of a veteran and/or veteran's spouse, except that:

   (1) Resources of both households must be considered in determining the needs of the child, without regard to the present location of the child.

Resolution No. 38 Spring NEC – 2000