

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 04-4-C

SUBMITTED BY: American Legion National Headquarters

SUBJECT: The American Legion Policy on the Department of
Veterans Affairs Medical School Affiliations

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and its medical school affiliates have enjoyed a long-standing and exemplary relationship for over 50 years that has continued to thrive and evolve to the present day; and
- WHEREAS, VHA has four core missions that include patient care, education, research and contingency support for the Department of Defense (DoD) medical services and the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS); and
- WHEREAS, VHA conducts the largest coordinated education and training program for health care professions in the nation and medical school affiliations allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to train new health professionals to meet the health care needs of veterans and the nation; and
- WHEREAS, Medical school affiliations have been a major factor in VA's ability to recruit and retain high quality physicians and to provide veterans access to the most advanced medical technology and cutting edge research; and
- WHEREAS, VHA research has made countless contributions to improve the quality of life for veterans and the general population, and the medical school affiliations are an integral component of VA's ability to expand medical knowledge through research; and
- WHEREAS, The partnership with this country's medical schools has allowed VHA to enhance its ability to provide quality medical care to America's veterans, to promote excellence in education and research, and to provide back-up medical care to the Department of Defense in the event of war or national emergency; and
- WHEREAS, The academic medical model of integrated clinical care, education and research is universally accepted as the best means of providing high quality and state-of-the-art medical care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED,

That The American Legion affirm its strong commitment and support for the mutually beneficial affiliations between the Veterans Health Administration and the medical schools of this nation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED,

That VA medical school affiliates should be appropriately represented as a stakeholder on any national Task Force, Commission, or Committee established to deliberate on veterans health care.