

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 08-16-C
SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan
SUBJECT: Oppose Lump Sum Payments of VA Disability Compensation

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Disability compensation is paid monthly to an eligible veteran on account of and at a rate commensurate with diminished earning capacity resulting from the effects of service-connected disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, Such compensation, by design, continues to provide relief from the service-connected disability for as long as the veteran continues to suffer its effects at a compensable level; and

WHEREAS, By law, the rate of compensation is determined by the level of disability present, thereby requiring reevaluation of the disability upon a change in its degree; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of the Inspector General, in a May 2005 report on variances in VA disability compensation payments, specifically recommended that VA consider establishing lump sum payments for veterans with disability ratings of 20 percent or less and the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, created by Congress to study the VA claims processing system, will undoubtedly be making recommendations regarding the lump sum issue in its report to Congress and the President in October 2007; and

WHEREAS, Such lump sum payments would not, on the whole, be in the best interests of disabled veterans but would be for Government savings and convenience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 19-22, 2008, That The American Legion oppose any recommendation, legislative or otherwise, to establish lump sum payments of VA disability compensation.