

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: 21-10-C

SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan

SUBJECT: The American Legion Position on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Means Test

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 2008-083 establishes policy on Means Test and Geographic-Based Means Test Thresholds; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 107-135, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001, directed VA to implement a Geographic Means Test (GMT); and

WHEREAS, VA uses the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) "low-income" geographic-based income limits as the thresholds for VA's GMT; and

WHEREAS, Congress established Priority Groups within the Department of Veterans Affairs to prioritize access to VA health care; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Veterans Affairs authorized suspension of new enrollment of Priority Group 8 veterans in January 2003; and

WHEREAS, Using the adjusted gross income may reclassify them as a Priority Group 7, thus allowing enrollment into VA; and

WHEREAS, Using the adjusted gross income may reclassify Priority Group 7 veterans as Priority Group 5 veterans; and

WHEREAS, The eligibility requirement for enrollment in Priority Group 5 or 7 for veterans to receive health care services provided by VHA is based on income; and

WHEREAS, The income for the Means Test is based on gross income, not adjusted gross income; and

WHEREAS, All other Federal agencies have eligibility on adjusted gross income; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Dearborn, Michigan, June 17-20, 2010, that The American Legion, Department of Michigan, support legislation to change Department of Veterans Affairs Means Test policy to allow adjusted gross income to be used for the eligibility criteria in Priority Groups 5, 7 and 8.