

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Rejected

RESOLUTION: 9-14-C
SUBMITTED BY: The American Legion, Department of Michigan
SUBJECT: Automatic Enrollment

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, As the war in Iraq has come to an end, and with the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan, as well as the automatic spending cuts imposed on the Department of Defense (DOD) by sequestration, has and will continue to result in waves of service members being forced out of the military; and

WHEREAS, The need continues to exist to fully automate enrollment at a service member's point of transition from the DOD healthcare system to ensure that veterans do not fall through the cracks and receive their earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, Service members and their families are easily overwhelmed when dealing with the bureaucracy of multiple departments, but with automatic enrollment, service members and veterans will be provided with timely, accessible and immediate enrollment and care within VA; and

WHEREAS, Automatic enrollment will assist in assuring veterans are provided with the immediate access and use of VA facilities, creating a seamless transition from DOD to the VA health care system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention, assembled in Livonia, Michigan, June 27 - June 29, 2014, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, urge Congress to enact legislation to direct automatic enrollment of service members separating from the

Department of Defense (DOD) active duty, guard or reserve under other than dishonorable conditions into the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) patient enrollment system under title 38, United States Code, section 1705 ; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That DOD provide the contact information of a transitioning veteran to VA whereby the veteran would be pre-enrolled until such time that the veteran contacts the VA to activate their enrollment in VA's patient enrollment system; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED,

That if a service member does not choose to enroll into VA's patient enrollment system, such person can opt out of enrolling by providing a notice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of their decision to decline enrollment.