

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION:**        #24-2

**SUBMITTED BY:**    Department Legislative Committee

**SUBJECT:**            Claims Filed by Accredited Service Officers for Veterans in the State of Michigan

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion, Department of Michigan supports existing Title 38 CFR 14.629(b)(1) that prohibits any party from assisting a veteran in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a Department Veterans Affairs (VA) claim unless they are accredited through VA for such purposes; and

**WHEREAS,** Fees charged by some non-accredited agencies have been known to be as high as thirty percent (30%) of the claim award; and

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion and other Veteran Service Organizations, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, and the Michigan Association of County Veteran Service Officers, do not charge a fee to assist veterans in the preparation, presentation, or legal representation of claims to the VA; and

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion, Department of Michigan has deep concerns regarding the protection and security of sensitive personal data and medical information of military veterans; and

**WHEREAS,** Granting unaccredited parties, particularly those with foreign ownership, access to such data poses a potential risk of unauthorized access, misuse, or exploitation; thereby, compromising the privacy and well-being of veterans; and

**WHEREAS,** The review of claims for benefits under laws administered by the VA Secretary should remain within the purview and oversight of government entities accountable to the American people; and

**WHEREAS,** Retaining these processes, within accredited agencies, Service Organizations ensure the highest level of expertise, transparency, and adaptability to meet the evolving needs of veterans' care; and

**WHEREAS,** The American Legion recognizes the potential national security risks associated with outsourcing the process and filing of veteran disability claims to unaccredited parties, particularly those with foreign ownership; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Winter Meeting, assembled in Flint, Michigan, February 10-11, 2024, That the State of Michigan pass legislation that prohibits anyone, other than the claimant Veteran themselves or an accredited Veteran representative through the Department of Veteran Affairs, and those laws be passed for the prosecution of, anyone else filing or assisting in filing claims for veterans living in the State of Michigan.**

APPROVED AS AMENDED

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APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ REJECTED \_\_\_\_\_ REFERRED TO \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED w/AMEND  X