THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Resolution: **#26 - 24**
Resolution
Submitted By: **19th District**

Subject: **Disapproval of National American Legion Support for the Taking Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA) and Reaffirmation of Membership-Adopted Legislative Positions**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a grassroots, resolution-based organization whose official legislative positions are established by resolutions adopted by the National Convention and the National Executive Committee, and those positions remain in effect until amended or rescinded through the same governing process; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 187 (2016), *Protect Veterans' Disability Compensation and Benefits*, directs The American Legion to ***oppose any administrative or legislative proposal that would dilute, eliminate, or offset any provision of the disability compensation program***, thereby affirming the organization's longstanding commitment to protecting earned disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 38 (2016), *Exempt Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits from Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO)*, supports legislation to exempt Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors from the Pay-As-You-Go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act, thereby opposing the financing of veterans' benefits through budgetary offsets; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 33 (2022), *Retain Tinnitus Diagnostic Code 6260 as a Stand-Alone Condition*, supports retaining Diagnostic Code 6260 in the Department of Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities and recognizes tinnitus as a stand-alone compensable disability, reflecting The American Legion's commitment to preserving compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 19 (2023), *Protect Veterans' Disability Compensation and Benefits*, reaffirmed the organization's policy to ***oppose any administrative or legislative proposal that would dilute or eliminate any provision of the disability compensation program***, thereby strengthening and reaffirming the policy previously adopted in Resolution No. 187 (2016); and

WHEREAS, the *Taking Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA)*, as introduced in Congress, includes provisions that would authorize revisions to disability compensation for future service members, including changes affecting compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea and other proposed revisions to the Department of Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, TCAVA also relies upon budgetary offsets that many members believe are inconsistent with The American Legion's longstanding opposition to financing veterans' benefits through PAYGO mechanisms as expressed in Resolution No. 38 (2016); and

WHEREAS, the National American Legion publicly expressed support for TCAVA despite the existence of membership-adopted resolutions that many members believe conflict with the legislation's disability compensation and funding provisions; and

WHEREAS, Many Legionnaires believe support for legislation that appears inconsistent with adopted resolutions undermines confidence in the organization's resolution-based governance process and the principle that the membership, through adopted resolutions, establishes the organization's legislative priorities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19th District Association of The American Legion Department of Michigan
in regular meeting on September 12th 2026, reaffirms its support for Resolution Nos. 187 (2016), 38 (2016), 33 (2022), and 19 (2023) as the governing legislative policy of The American Legion concerning veterans' disability compensation and opposition to funding veterans' benefits through PAYGO offsets; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this District urges the National Executive Committee and the National Legislative Commission to withdraw the National American Legion's endorsement of TCAVA unless and until the legislation is amended to fully conform with the policies established by the membership through adopted resolutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this District calls upon the National Executive Committee to ensure future
legislative positions involving veterans' disability compensation are consistent with existing membership-adopted resolutions or, if a change in policy is desired, that such change be presented to the membership through the established resolution process before any endorsement is made; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the 19th District Association of the American Legion Department of Michigan declares that the American Legion must remain the nation's foremost advocate for veterans by defending, not bargaining away, the benefits earned through military service and that The American Legion exists to protect the promises made to those who have served and to future generations who will serve, and should never support legislation that finances one veteran's benefit by reducing or offsetting another.