

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

Resolution No. 86: National Defense Budget

Origin: Maryland

Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, The American Legion views a strong national defense as paramount to national security; and

WHEREAS, The House Armed Services Committee approving a \$583 billion total defense authorization bill for 2017; and

WHEREAS, More than \$1 trillion in sequestration-related defense cuts are slated for now through 2021; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Hagel commissioned a report that stated, “If sequestration-level cuts persist, our forces will assume substantial additional risks in certain missions and will continue to face significant readiness and modernization challenges”; and

WHEREAS, Not only do the spending cuts downsize the force structure, but also reduce service members pay and benefits, which could potentially lead to the loss of highly trained men and women; and

WHEREAS, While the Department of Defense is content on shrinking the size and scope of the United States military, our major adversaries, Russia and China, along with rouge nations such as North Korea and Iran are ramping up their military stocks and capabilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion urge Congress to oppose any future budget cuts in military spending proposed by the Department of Defense; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress not allow our military forces to reach a weakened state in these uncertain and perilous times.