

**NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Reno, Nevada
August 22, 23, 24, 2017**

Resolution No. 28: Permit VA Providers to Discuss the Use of Medical Marijuana in Those States that have Legalized Marijuana

Origin: Ohio

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
(As amended)**

WHEREAS, Dr. William Woodward, representing the American Medical Association (AMA) testified as an opponent of the 1937 Marijuana Tax Act, due to the use of cannabis in medicine; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized a study of marijuana that culminated in a report by the Pennsylvania Republican Governor Shafer that was titled, “Marijuana: A Signal of Misunderstanding”; and

WHEREAS, The United States government has been shipping tins containing 300 marijuana cigarettes per month to Federal Investigational New Drug Program patients for decades starting in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Medical studies from Israel have revealed positive use of marijuana in medical applications specifically in adult patients sustaining Traumatic Brain Injury type injuries; and

WHEREAS, The United States government, in October of 2003, issued U.S. Patent #6630507 for marijuana’s medical use, specifically claiming that cannabinoids are found to have application as neuroprotectants; and

WHEREAS, The National Academy of Medicine and Science report in January 2017 shows conclusive evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective for treatment of chronic pain in adults, as anti-emetics in treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and for improving patient reported multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms; and

WHEREAS, At the 98th American Legion National Convention resolution No. 11 was passed to support the growth of marijuana at more locations, to remove it as a Schedule I controlled substance and to conduct more medical studies; and

WHEREAS, More than half of the states in the union have passed medical marijuana laws to date; and

WHEREAS, VHA Policy 2011-004 Item 3, prohibits Department of Veterans Affairs providers from completing forms seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a veterans participation in a state marijuana program; and

WHEREAS, In 2016 Ohio passed HB523 the Medical Marijuana Control Program that includes a program for military veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion urge the United States government to permit Department of Veterans Affairs medical providers to be able to discuss with veterans the use of marijuana for medical purposes and recommend it in those states where medical marijuana laws exist.