

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 14-15, 2020
Virtual**

**Resolution No. 6: Minority Veterans
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, Recent Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) statistics listed minority veterans represented about 22 percent of the total veteran population of 18.6 million; and

WHEREAS, VA projects minority veterans will make up approximately 36 percent of the total veteran population by 2040; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics estimated that the minority veteran population totaled nearly 4.7 million at the end of 2017, which was estimated to be about 1 in 5 living veterans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, That proportion is projected to increase to about 1 in 3 living veterans in the United States by 2045; and

WHEREAS, According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services data, disparities in health care have persisted over time in the United States for a wide range of conditions; and

WHEREAS, These disparities are associated with worse health outcomes and the presence of unmet health-care needs for minority veterans; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that minority veterans are more likely to depend upon the VA to provide all or some of their health care; and

WHEREAS, Across all veterans, significant disparities were detected between traditionally underserved minority groups and white veterans in their ability to obtain needed medical care; and

WHEREAS, Although VA's recent transformation achieved performance improvements in process of care measures for all veterans, gaps in clinical outcomes still persist for hypertension, cardiovascular care and diabetes care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that the health-care needs of all current and future minority veterans are met; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the VA increase the amount of outreach to minority veterans through awareness campaigns, benefits education and community organizations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the VA continue efforts to focus on preventing, detecting and controlling clinical issues related to hypertension, cardiovascular care and diabetes care; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the VA continue to develop veteran-centered care initiatives for minority veterans, which can include delivery of culturally sensitive care in VA facilities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the VA continue research that identifies causes of minority disparities in veterans' health and health care and as evidence-based treatments develop provide interventions to reduce these disparities.