

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 5-6, 2021
Virtual**

**Resolution No. 16: Reproductive Assistance and Pregnancy Counseling
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
(As Amended)**

WHEREAS, Statistics show that the women veteran population will increase by 18,000 per year over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Multiple reports, including from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), have indicated the number of women veterans seeking pregnancy care is rising; and

WHEREAS, Women are filing more combat roles, exposing them to trauma including but not limited to post-traumatic stress disorder, physical injury, and toxic exposure which can lead to issues conceiving and/or loss of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Women are waiting to have children until later in life; and

WHEREAS, The VA covers veterans that choose to go through the VA for reproductive assistance provided they are married, heterosexual, and can produce their own genetic material; and

WHEREAS, Maternity care coordinators at the VA can help veterans find providers who are trained to help patients cope with unintended loss of pregnancy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to support reproductive assistance services to include in vitro fertilization for all veterans with a 50% or greater disability rating regardless of loss of function or reproductive dysfunction; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that directs the VA to support reproductive assistance services to include in vitro fertilization for all veterans with a service connected loss of creative organ or other reproductive dysfunction; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to pass a “pregnancy loss counseling program,” which directs the VA to provide counseling to veterans who experience loss of pregnancy, regardless of causation or provide community care options.