

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 6-7, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No. 13: Mandatory Use of the Veterans First Contracting Program by the
Department of Defense**

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, Assistance to veterans who have honorably served our country is a veterans benefit prior to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13360 requires each agency to develop a strategy to increase contracting and subcontracting with service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) and veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs), designate a senior-level official to develop and implement the agency's strategy, and report its progress annually to the Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses having the same opportunities to be awarded set-aside and sole source contracts through the Department of Defense (DoD) as are currently provided through the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Veteran's First legislation, PL109-461; and

WHEREAS, There are currently sole-source contracts in the Department of Defense for socio-economically disadvantaged groups to include 8(a)s; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans First Contracting Program at the VA was created to grow the veteran small business industrial base; and

WHEREAS, The VA has produced and implemented plans to migrate from its own acquisition program Med/Surg Prime Vendor (MSPV 2.0) to the Defense Logistics Agency's MSPV program; and

WHEREAS, DoD's predicted resistance to utilization of veteran-owned small businesses will cause the amount of government contracts for SDVOSBs and VOSBs to significantly decrease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 6-7, 2021, That The American Legion supports legislation requiring mandatory use of the Veterans First Contracting Program on all Department of Defense contract actions, regardless of the entity (public or private) that fulfills the contractual terms; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Veteran's First language in Section 502 of PL 109-461 should be expanded through legislation to formally recognize service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses working hand-in-hand with the Department of Defense; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That veterans should have the same opportunities in the Department of Defense to compete for sole source contracts up to \$100M pursuant to §823 of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.