

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 4-5, 2022
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No. 15: Department of Veterans Affairs Prosthetic Program
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest prosthetic and sensory aid provider in the world; and

WHEREAS, VA defines a prosthetic as any device that supports or replaces a body part or function; and

WHEREAS, The increase in veteran amputees requires VA to provide state-of-the-art prosthetics in combination with high-quality, comprehensive, lifelong care; and

WHEREAS, Between 2009 and 2019, VA amputation specialty clinics saw a 49 percent annual increase in the number of unique veterans treated and a 64 percent annual increase in the number of total clinic encounters; and

WHEREAS, Prosthetics for female veterans have been a national research priority for the Veterans Health Administration since 2017; and

WHEREAS, VA provides a clothing allowance to help veterans buy new clothes that may be damaged by prosthetics, orthopedic devices, or a prescription topical cream required by a veteran due to an injury or illness related to military service; and

WHEREAS, VA has partnered extensively with the Department of Defense (DoD) to transition servicemembers with amputations from the military health-care system to VA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2022, That The American Legion urges Congress to amend Title 38 U.S. Code §1162 by changing the payments for clothing allowances to automatically recur on an annual basis; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) work together to ease any undue burden for transitioning servicemembers who require continual prosthetic maintenance, training, and rehabilitation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA continue to fund, develop, and provide gender-specific prosthetic appliances, orthotics, and services through multiple avenues such as medical facilities, community outreach centers, and mobile clinics; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA continue to engage in research and innovation to ensure all veterans are provided opportunities to mobilize independently; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA support research to remain abreast of the latest technologies in prosthetics and orthopedic devices and conduct comparative analysis on best practices and outcomes derived from the Medicare program, VA, and the commercial health insurance market relating to the coverage of assistive technologies.