

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

**Resolution No. 26: Support Availability Of TRICARE Prime To All Eligible Veterans
Residing In All United States Territories
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2819 (PR) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: National Security Commission**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always supported quality of life features for members of the armed forces, their dependents, military retirees, and survivors as people are the foundation of our nation's fighting forces; and

WHEREAS, Our members of the reserve, military retirees younger than 65 and their dependents who are residents in the U.S. territories are deserving and rightfully entitled to adequate health-care treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) created TRICARE to augment its Military Health System; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE primarily consists of regional federally contracted, for-profit health-care providers; and

WHEREAS, U.S. territories are classified as overseas under the TRICARE program, and for that reason, TRICARE Prime is not offered; and

WHEREAS, Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1097(b)(3), provides authority for the secretary of the Department of Defense to determine the availability of TRICARE Prime to beneficiaries who reside in designated geographic locations; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics and the Study on the Treatment of TRICARE beneficiaries, approximately 31,158 eligible veterans of Puerto Rico and Guam can't receive health care under TRICARE Prime as their counterparts in the continental U.S.; 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 supports legislation that would mandate the Department of Defense to make TRICARE Prime available to all eligible veterans residing in all United States territories.