

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 30, 31, September 1, 2022**

Resolution No. 64: Codification of the Department of Veterans Affairs Solid Start Program

Origin: Illinois

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
(As Amended)**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, as one of its core pillars, veterans affairs and rehabilitation and our community understands that the transition from service in the armed forces back into civilian life remains one of the greatest challenges for our veterans returning home after years of service abroad in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and many others; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently has several programs that fall under the "Solid Start" program that endeavor to ease the transition for veterans into civilian life by ensuring they receive information about how to access VA health care, submit disability claims, apply for education benefits such as the G.I. Bill, and access suicide prevention resources, among other services; and

WHEREAS, Legislation such as the Solid Start Act of 2021, a bi-partisan piece of legislation aimed at serving veterans, would codify the "Solid Start" program and make it a permanent resource for veterans, including a provision that would allow for veteran service organizations and associations, such as The American Legion, to become authorized as alternate points of contact to reach out to veterans who are otherwise unable to be reached directly by the VA, thus allowing the Legion to use our spaces and resources to connect with veterans on a veteran-to-veteran level to educate them about resources and support networks; and

WHEREAS, Programs such as this will help veterans from this generation and future generations to access the resources, health care, and communities they need to integrate back into civilian life and will help us ensure our warriors are able to lead full, happy, and healthy lives in the country they fought to defend; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 30, 31, September 1, 2022, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "Solid Start" program be codified into law as a permanent program for U.S. military veterans to ensure they have a successful transition back to civilian life.