

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 12-13, 2022
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No. 16: Furthering Research Pertaining to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI),
Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense reported that nearly 450,000 U.S. servicemembers were diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) between the years 2000 and late 2021, with 82.2 percent being classified as mild; and

WHEREAS, Concussions and mild TBIs (mTBI) can derail life, causing problems with cognition, depression, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) and increase risk of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Receiving multiple concussions has been associated with a greater risk of developing a neurodegenerative disease like chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) that causes problems with cognition, mood, behavior, sleep, and could result in dementia; and

WHEREAS, Scientists have found an association between CTE and repetitive mTBI in professional athletes and combat veterans after autopsy; and

WHEREAS, CTE cannot yet be diagnosed accurately nor effectively treated in the living; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), in partnership with Boston University and Concussion Legacy Foundation (VA-BU-CLF) have established a Brain Bank which is the world's largest CTE tissue repository and includes a leading research program on the long-term effects of traumatic brain injuries and head impact exposures; and

WHEREAS, VA's ability to collect and store donated human tissues through its VA Biorepository Brain Bank (VABBB) also allows researchers to study conditions affecting veterans such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS; Lou Gehrig's disease) and Gulf War illness; and

WHEREAS, Brain Bank research is an essential step in developing effective treatments to help protect and support the heroes who courageously fight to defend our great nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting, assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2022, That The American Legion encourages veterans to continue their legacy of service to others and consider becoming a brain and or body donor so combat medics, surgeons, nurses, and researchers can learn to better manage blunt head trauma; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges Congress to fund and accelerate critical Department of Veteran Affairs research on traumatic brain injury, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and other neurodegenerative conditions affecting servicemembers and veterans.