

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

**Resolution No. 20: National Standards of Practice
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, On June 30, 2022, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) published the first of 50 draft National Standards of Practice (NSP) in the Federal Register; and

WHEREAS, VA defines NSP as “a standardized set of services that all health care professionals in a given occupation can perform within VA, regardless of what is permitted by state licensure, certification or registration per the Authority of VA Professionals to Practice Health Care”; and

WHEREAS, VA issued this interim final rule to “confirm that its health care professionals may practice their health care profession consistent with the scope and requirements of their VA employment, notwithstanding any state license, registration, certification, or other requirements that unduly interfere with their practice”; and

WHEREAS, This rulemaking verifies VA's current practice of allowing VA health-care professionals to deliver health-care services in a state other than the health-care professional's state of licensure, registration, certification or other state requirements to allow expansive access for beneficiaries' to receive critical VA health-care services; and

WHEREAS, This rulemaking also confirms VA's authority to establish NSPs which will standardize a health-care professional's practice in all VA medical facilities, therefore, protecting them from state disciplinary action as long as they are practicing within the scope of their VA employment; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is concerned about improper expansion or restriction of a health-care providers' scope of practice through the establishment of NSPs; 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 calls for the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to ensure National Standards of Practice (NSP) providers are held to the level of licensure and certification requirements that are held by the majority of states; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA ensures that the evaluation and application of NSPs is consistent with providing the best care possible to veterans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress provides oversight and accountability efforts, including the Office of the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, over the implementation of the NSP process and outcomes; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA ensure necessary stakeholders, including professional medical associations, are able to provide input at all phases of the development and implementation process of NSPs.