

THE AMERICAN LEGION



AMERICANISM COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

OFFICIAL ACTIONS AND POSITIONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON MATTERS OF CHILDREN & YOUTH


MAY 2015

The resolutions contained within the following pages come under the oversight of the Committee on Children & Youth and are posted through the 2014 NEC fall meeting. Each resolution listed gives a brief summation of its intent and is identified by resolution number, meeting, and year. For example: Resolution No. 56 Spring NEC – 2013 refers to Resolution No. 56 that was adopted at the 2003 Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee.

In the interest of brevity, policies of The American Legion, the Americanism Commission and Committee on Children & Youth listed herein contain only the resolved clauses of each resolution.

Over the years, the Committee on Children & Youth has reiterated a number of policy statements. In such cases, only the most recent resolution has been included.

The complete text of Children & Youth resolutions are available on the digital archives of The American Legion located online at the following link:
<http://www.legion.org/library/digitalarchive> .


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Legislative Resolutions

Establish "National Family Week"

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the Congress to establish "National Family Week" during Thanksgiving Holiday Week as an annual observance.

Resolution No. 214 2014 National Convention

Financially Assist Families Faced by Catastrophic Illness of their Children

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion urges the federal government to expand the present federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant programs to include catastrophic illness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That department and post leadership are encouraged to urge state governments to enact legislation to assist financially those individual families faced by the catastrophic illness of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family.

Resolution No. 5 2014 National Convention

Funding for Drug Trafficking Prevention Programs

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion urge the President and Congress of the United States to appropriate funds that meet or exceed current funding levels for state, federal, and military drug trafficking prevention programs.

Resolution No. 7 2014 National Convention

Improving Services for Children Living in Foster Care

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at improving services for children living in foster homes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with the leading national foster care organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children and Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate foster care programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That posts are urged to volunteer their talents and energies in behalf of foster children and are urged to make their communities aware of the vital role that adequate foster care services play in enabling these children to develop into mature, responsible and productive adults.

Resolution No. 266 2012 National Convention

Locate Missing Children and Prevent Child Victimization

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at locating missing children and preventing child victimization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to appropriate funds that meet or exceed current funding levels for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to collaborate with national and state missing and exploited children agencies and organizations as determined by the National American Commission to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role, at all levels, in locating missing children and preventing child exploitation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the departments and posts are encouraged to actively increase the public's awareness of child victimization and its detrimental effects on the children and youth of our society and are urged to cooperate with credible organizations and agencies that seek to locate missing children in their states and communities.

Resolution No. 221 2014 National Convention

National School Lunch Program

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That Congress appropriate funds at or exceeding current funding levels for the National School Lunch Program.

Resolution No. 222 2014 National Convention

Oppose any Attempt to Weaken Present Laws Governing Penalties For the Production, Sale and Distribution Of Pornographic or Obscene Materials to Minors

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion strongly opposes any attempt to weaken our present laws governing the penalties for the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials to minors.

Resolution No. 9 2014 National Convention

Prevent Child Maltreatment

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at preventing child maltreatment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to collaborate with national and state child maltreatment prevention organizations as determined by the National Americanism Commission to the

end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of child maltreatment prevention programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are urged to cooperate in all ways possible with organizations and agencies that advocate for child maltreatment prevention and are urged to promote and increase the public's awareness of child maltreatment and its detrimental effects on the children and youth of our society; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges all educators, coaches, school administrators and all others responsible for children in any capacity to familiarize themselves with the warning signs of all forms of child maltreatment and report any suspected maltreatment to the proper authorities and ensure that these children are referred to the appropriate child protective service in their community; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue through its Children & Youth program, at all levels, to educate the public of their obligations and duties with respect to reporting suspected cases of child maltreatment.

Resolution No. 240 2014 National Convention

Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at the prevention, investigation and prosecution of child sexual exploitation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to collaborate with national and state agencies and organizations involved in the prevention of child sexual exploitation as determined by the National Americanism Commission to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in preventing child sexual exploitation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to actively raise community awareness about the prevalence of sexual exploitation of children and are encouraged to cooperate with law enforcement agencies, government entities and public/private organizations that seek to empower the public to take immediate and direct action to enforce a zero tolerance policy regarding child sexual exploitation.

Resolution No. 8 2014 National Convention

Programs and Organizations that Promote Child Safety

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at preventing or reducing unintentional injury among children and adolescents; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with the leading national safety organizations as determined by the National Americanism Commission to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate child safety programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to actively raise the public's awareness on organized safety commissions and are urged to actively promote child safety at the state and local levels.

Resolution No. 241 2014 National Convention

Reducing or Preventing Teenage Pregnancy

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion support appropriate legislation aimed at reducing or preventing teen pregnancy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with national and state teen pregnancy prevention organizations as determined by the Americanism Commission to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate teen pregnancy prevention programs: and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to actively raise the public's awareness about organizations and agencies that seek to educate teenagers on the advantages of delaying pregnancy.

Resolution No. 242 2014 National Convention

Support for Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion supports the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and its programs; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the President and Congress meet or exceed current funding levels for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Resolution No. 243 2014 National Convention

Support Funding Comprehensive Health Care For Children And Youth Programs

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion affirms its support of the programs as outlined by the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant contained under Title V of the Social Security Act and urges the Congress to appropriate funds that meet or exceed current funding levels, to include all programs related to the Comprehensive Health Care for Children and Youth.

Resolution No. 6 2014 National Convention

Non-Legislative Resolutions

Alcohol and Youth

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2000, That The American Legion urges all

Departments and Posts to assist in alerting, informing, and educating parents, teachers, and other school authorities in their communities of the tragic results of alcohol abuse by youngsters; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Departments and Posts be encouraged to cooperate with other organizations and agencies concerned with this problem by discussing, formulating and disseminating the facts about alcohol and the threat it poses to our leaders of tomorrow.

Resolution No. 45 Spring NEC – 2000

Authorization to Conduct National Children & Youth Conference

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 10 – 11, 2006, That The American Legion does hereby authorize the National Commission on Children & Youth to conduct a Children & Youth Conference for Department Children & Youth representatives, beginning in the fall of 2007, and annually thereafter.

Resolution No.44 Spring NEC – 2006

Child Welfare Foundation Participation With The Combined Federal Campaign

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 19-20, 1994, That The American Legion work with the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to secure qualification of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in the Combined Federal Campaign; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute any documents necessary, and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest same.

Resolution No. 31 Fall NEC – 1994

Childcare Services

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with the leading national child care organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children and Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate child care programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to cooperate with the state and community public or private agencies with day care responsibilities to the end that licensed child care facilities will be available to all children in our nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are urged to continue to encourage the adoption and implementation of safe and consistent licensing standards for childcare in facilities throughout this nation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts be encouraged to assist in raising the level of understanding among the general public about the needs of adequate child care, and urged to commit the resources to achieve a level of quality that is necessary for children to grow in a healthy and safe environment.

Commending Children's Organ Transplant Association

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Children's Organ Transplant Association for its humanitarian efforts on behalf of children in need of organ and bone marrow transplants; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Children's Organ Transplant Association as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 23 Spring NEC – 2014

Commending Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and their mission and aims to help and represent at-risk children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 29 Spring NEC – 2014

Commending Mercy Medical Angels

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6–7, 2015, That The American Legion commends Mercy Medical Angels for its humanitarian efforts to provide children and families needed charitable transportation to distant treatment locations across the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Mercy Medical Angels as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 14 Spring NEC – 2015

Commending Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7-8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program that helps provide a home-away-from-home environment for financially-challenged families with seriously ill or injured children who must undergo medical treatment at a children's hospital; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Ronald McDonald House Charities as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 28 Spring NEC – 2014

Commending Special Olympics

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends Special Olympics for its efforts to enhance the lives of millions of intellectually disabled children by providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in the United States and around the world; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to Special Olympics as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 27 Spring NEC – 2014

Commending The JAYC Foundation

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7–8, 2014, That The American Legion commends The JAYC Foundation for its mission to improve the lives of children and to strengthen families; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth send a copy of this resolution to The JAYC Foundation as an expression of The American Legion's congratulations and continuing admiration.

Resolution No. 25 Spring NEC – 2014

Establish Children & Youth Post and Department Certificate Awards

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2012, That authority be formally reinstated for the National Commission on Children & Youth to continue its certificate awards that recognize posts, districts, and departments conducting outstanding Children & Youth programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commission on Children & Youth continue to issue and send the certificates to posts, districts and departments.

Resolution 61 Fall NEC – 2012

Fireworks Safety

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2006, That The American Legion urges all Departments and Posts to assist in alerting, informing, and educating parents, children, community leaders, and others about the dangers of fireworks; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Departments and Posts encourage children and their families to enjoy fireworks at public fireworks displays conducted by professionals, rather than purchase fireworks for home or private use.

Resolution No.33 Spring NEC – 2006

General Drug Abuse Statement

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 7-8, 2003, That all levels of The American Legion be urged to continue their efforts to reduce drug abuse, as it affects our nation's young people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion does affirm its support for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and that, to the extent possible, the Legion will work with the President of the United States, Congress, state legislators, and federal, state and local agencies, when, as an organization, the Legion believes changes or additions to our laws or government policies are necessary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support those initiatives designed to educate children about the real dangers associated with drugs, and seeks the involvement of parents, business and community leaders, school administrators and coaches, and other role models in a broad prevention campaign; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages families and institutions, including employers, law enforcement agencies, faith-based and community-based organizations, and health care providers to help drug abusers recognize their addiction and urge them to seek appropriate treatment; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That drugs and drug abuse must be attacked as a whole, which includes international relations, law enforcement, education, judicial reform, research, treatment and rehabilitation, to ensure that our nation's children grow up as healthy and productive members of society.

Resolution No. 282 2010 National Convention

Intellectual Disabilities

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2006, That The American Legion recognize and support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities to enjoy a quality of life that promotes independence, self-determination, and participation as productive members of society; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the goals of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities:

- The assurance of full citizenship rights of people with intellectual disabilities;
- The provision of all necessary supports to individuals and families;
- The reduction of the occurrence and severity of intellectual disabilities; and
- The promotion of the widest dissemination of information of models, programs, and services within the field of intellectual disabilities;

become the goals of the The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support and encourage early diagnosis, intervention and treatment, increased professional staffing, expanded educational opportunities, family counseling,

improved and new living facilities, and adequate social and vocational services for the intellectually disabled; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports continuing research, and preventive and early intervention efforts to prevent intellectual disabilities, to include research on the development and function of the nervous system, fetal treatments, and gene therapy to correct the abnormality produced by defective genes; and early intervention programs with high-risk infants and children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That whenever possible, The American Legion is encouraged to help alert the public through awareness and education programs designed to change the negative attitudes and prejudices concerning our nation's intellectually disabled children.

Resolution No. 294 2010 National Convention

Protect Children from Unrestricted Media

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion promote efforts to restrict the excessive use of violence, vulgarity and other forms of moral depravity in movies, TV programs, TV news and the Internet; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to conduct awareness campaigns to educate their members, their families and the general public about the potential dangers the Internet and other forms of electronic media pose to children and teenagers; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Americanism Commission disseminate educational materials, when feasible, to inform department and post leadership about the potential dangers inherent in the media and Internet, in an effort to return the country to the God-given principles of life, liberty, and the true pursuit of happiness.

Resolution No. 11 2014 National Convention

Support Efforts to Immunization all Children

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion reaffirms its position of supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccine to immunize children; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are urged to actively raise awareness about local treatment and immunization programs so that children in every community may achieve the fullest protection against communicable diseases.

Resolution No. 10 2014 National Convention

Violence and Vandalism in the Schools

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2006, That The American Legion recommends school boards and national and state education agencies, in conjunction with parents and community members, develop and implement programs that create effective violence prevention strategies, to include consistent, fair and responsible “zero tolerance” policies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, The American Legion urges local law enforcement to implement effective programs for the amelioration of juvenile delinquency in coordination with the Department of Education, community citizenry and other agencies within the criminal justice system; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That local Posts urge and assist those in the educational community and criminal justice system to work closely together with communities and families in efforts to reduce the development and prevailing patterns of juvenile delinquency in schools and our communities.

Resolution No. 36 Spring NEC – 2006

Youth Suicide Prevention Education

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7 - 8, 2003, That Departments and Posts of the American Legion cooperate in all ways possible to promote and increase the public’s awareness of the warning signs of youth suicide; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges all educators, coaches, school administrators and all others responsible for children in any capacity, to familiarize themselves with the warning signs of youth suicide; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages all schools to incorporate youth suicide prevention programs into their regular school curriculum, and provide youth suicide training for faculty and staff; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That legislation be sought through state legislatures to mandate youth suicide prevention education programs in each state which does not already address this problem.

Resolution No. 58 Spring NEC – 2003