

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

Resolution No. 129: Provide the Department of Veterans Affairs the Ability to Purchase Medications Located Outside the United States

Origin: Maryland

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, 41 U.S.C. Sections 10a-10d prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from purchasing pharmaceutical products manufactured in United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved facilities located in non-approved trading partner countries; and

WHEREAS, Since 2010, there have been an unprecedented number of VA pharmaceutical product shortages; and

WHEREAS, Some of these pharmaceutical products can be directly or indirectly linked to FDA product recalls while others cannot; and

WHEREAS, At times, even the manufacturer cannot or will not explain the reason for the shortage; and

WHEREAS, Outsourcing of pharmaceutical production, to areas outside of the U.S., is occurring at an increasing rate; and

WHEREAS, There are multiple instances of either primary product selection and/or secondary options that are only manufactured in countries from which the VA cannot purchase; and

WHEREAS, This forces the VA to either utilize costly brand name products or switch the veteran to a totally different product; and

WHEREAS, In almost all cases this procurement restriction has resulted in a higher cost to the VA, with no corresponding increase in quality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion petition Congress to enact legislation to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs authority to purchase needed pharmaceuticals, manufactured in United States Food & Drug Administration approved facilities located outside the United States.