

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

Resolution No. 136: Strategic Capital Investment Planning Program

Origin: Maryland

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) program is a ten-year capital plan designed to address VA's most critical infrastructure needs within the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administration; and

WHEREAS, The SCIP plan evaluated gaps associated with space, access/workload, condition, safety, security, energy and other gap data needing to be reduced with major construction, minor construction, non-recurring maintenance, enhanced-use leasing, sharing, and other investments and disposal; and

WHEREAS, The SCIP plan has identified 4,808 capital projects that will be necessary to close gaps over a ten-year period with a cost between \$53 and \$65 billion with a current facility condition assessment deficiency cost of \$10 billion; and

WHEREAS, The SCIP Plan does not include activation costs for facilities, which include staffing full-time employee equivalents and office furniture, which will be additional costs incurred by the Veteran Integrated Service Network, VA Medical Center and allocated by other VA appropriations; and

WHEREAS, The Government Accountability Office report in January, 2011, *VA Real Property: Realignment Progressing, but Greater Transparency about Future Priorities Is Needed*, recommended, "VA annually provide to Congress the full results of its SCIP process and any subsequent capital planning efforts, including details on estimated costs of future projects"; and

WHEREAS, Under VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services planning process, The American Legion urged Congress to annually appropriate sufficient funds to fund the plan, however, VA was not given the \$1 billion appropriation as intended; and

WHEREAS, Funding for VA's major and minor construction programs have been consistently targeted for reductions; 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 urges Congress to provide increased appropriations annually to address Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) construction deficiencies and gaps identified by VA's Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA include activation costs in their future SCIP cost projections and allocations so VA's budget will not have to offset this lack of national funding; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA continue to be transparent about SCIP progress by publicly posting information about projects and costs on an annual basis.