

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

Resolution No. 160: Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Origin: Pennsylvania

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) refers to treatments not considered to be standard in the current practice of Western Medicine; and

WHEREAS, In some locations, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provide CAM, such as: acupuncture, biofeedback, art therapy, tai chi, medication, breathing exercises, massage, and yoga; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Committee was formed in 2010 in order to investigate the existing science and procedures and alternative methods for treating TBI and PTSD not currently being employed by the DoD or VA for the purpose of determining if such alternative treatments are practical and efficacious; and

WHEREAS, In the wake of serious concerns about over prescription of medications at the Tomah Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the nation has become more focused on ensuring veterans and servicemembers are treated properly with opioid medications and do not suffer due to mixed drug toxicity; and

WHEREAS, CAM treatments should not be limited to treatment of veterans suffering from TBI and PTSD; 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 urge Congress to provide oversight and funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for innovative, evidence-based, complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in treating various illnesses and disabilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legions urges legislation that would improve pain management policies for the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That DoD and VA accelerate research efforts to properly diagnose and develop CAM treatments as evidence-based .