

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

**Resolution No. 163: Legislation to Provide Reporting, Tracking, and Action Dealing with  
Sexual Assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities**

**Origin: Pennsylvania**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, Our men and women returning home from military service and all veterans deserve the highest level of health care, which includes both quality and safety; and

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does have a policy on sexual assault prevention; however, with the influx of an increasing women veterans population, the policy should be updated and refined; and

WHEREAS, There is a report issued by the Government Accountability Office, GAO-11-736T, dated June 13, 2011 calling for “Improvements Needed for Monitoring and Preventing Sexual Assaults and Other Safety Incidents,” which detailed serious security lapses in VA’s reporting system for such incidents delivered earlier in 2011; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for legislation to increase the safety of patients and staff and improve upon inconsistencies in tracking, reporting, and action; 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 encourage Congress to pass legislation in order to ensure reporting, tracking, and actions taken upon incidents of sexual assaults at each Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility including:**

- **Tools to assess the risk of individual veterans**
- **Mandatory security training**
- **Physical security precautions (surveillance cameras, panic alarm systems)**
- **Criteria and guidance for employees communicating and reporting incidents to specified supervisory personnel, VA law enforcement officials and the VA Office of Inspector General**
- **An oversight system within the Veterans Health Administration**
- **Procedures for VA law enforcement officials investigating, tracking and closing reported incidents.**