

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

**Resolution No. 193: Department of Veterans Affairs Foreign Medical Program
Origin: Washington
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, Access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care for veterans is enshrined in federal law, to include access to, and reimbursement for emergency medical care obtained at non-VA facilities in the United States or overseas for service connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Such disabled veterans may travel outside the United States for business, family or recreational reasons; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with service-connected disabilities are entitled to receive emergency medical care overseas through the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) under the Chief Business Office of Purchased Care for services "that are medically necessary to treat a VA-rated, service-connected disability or for a condition that is associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability;" and

WHEREAS, The FMP claim process may require that the veteran first pays unaffordable out-of-pocket costs to an overseas health care provider and then later file for reimbursement; a condition that creates a financial hardship on the veteran; and

WHEREAS, Veterans travelling overseas, in the vicinity of U.S. military installations, at times may experience medical emergencies related to their service-connected disability, but if they are not enrolled in Tricare, cannot receive medical care on U.S. military installations; and

WHEREAS, Tricare does, however, sometimes contract with overseas emergency medical facilities local to U. S. military installations to accept payment from Tricare; and

WHEREAS, The VA already contracts with Tricare providers through the Chief Business Office of Purchased Care for Patient-Centered Community Care through Tri-West to serve veteran health-care needs in numerous Veterans Integrated Service Networks; and

WHEREAS, The VA, under the Chief Business Office of Purchased Care already contracts with Tricare with their Patient-Centered Community Care program; 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 the Department of Veterans Affairs to adopt further contracting with Tricare to expand access under the Foreign Medical Program for veterans to seek emergency medical care from overseas Tricare providers who will handle the payments at no out-of-pocket costs to the veteran.