

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

**Resolution No. 304: Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is concerned over the education of America's service member and student-veterans, and their ability to acquire gainful employment after earning degrees from institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, More than 30 federal and state law enforcement agencies have made findings, in ongoing investigations or lawsuits - and in 15 federal and state settlements since 2012 - that some institutions of higher learning have deceived students about the schools' quality of education, tuition and cost, transferability of credits, accreditation, and graduates' job prospects and salary, including deceptions about graduates' eligibility to work in licensed occupations; and

WHEREAS, Accreditation has become a key point of issue of both the political and policy communities and few of those who are critical of it understand the present system, which is a big part of the problem; and

WHEREAS, Before any meaningful reform can be undertaken, there needs to be an agreement as to whether the present system is "too difficult" or "too lax" and whether the desired end goal is a regulatory enforcement body or one of quality assurance; and

WHEREAS, The state approving agencies have been tasked with changing their role from proactive oversight of all schools to performing Veterans Affairs compliance surveys on benefits already paid, but are ill-equipped to undertake such a task due to the lack of manpower and funds to adequately perform both Veterans Affairs compliance surveys and proper proactive oversight of for-profit schools and their programs; 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 support legislation to provide additional resources and increased funding for state approving agencies, ensuring continuation of its primary responsibility with focus in reviewing, evaluating, and approving quality programs of education and training, while providing oversight to institutions of higher learning to ensure alignment with state and federal criteria on behalf of servicemember and student-veterans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion expresses its strong support for legislation and federal agency action to ensure educational success and civilian workforce success of GI Bill users and military student program participants, including colleges that enroll veterans in loans they did not need, want, or authorize; to ensure prospective students are armed with all the information needed to make an informed college choice; to take steps to ensure better quality and student outcomes for institutions approved for use of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion expresses its strong support for the VA regulations requiring for-profit institutions be held to the same standards and criteria as non-profit institutions for the purpose of approval for use of VA education benefits.