

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

**Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the
Department of Veterans Affairs**

Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, It has been the finding of numerous Government Accountability Office reports that, for a variety of reasons, the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) program has not been adequately administered by the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, The issue of veterans unemployment remains a non-priority to the Secretary of Labor whose priorities lie with the overall employment of the general population and other minority groups; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that such program for veterans be fully funded and subject to complete oversight by the congressional veterans affairs committees to ensure that all veterans are administered services in a uniform manner, and that the priority of service is preserved; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 107-288 has severely crippled the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service's (DOL-VETS) ability to maintain oversight and control of the JVSG program; and

WHEREAS, The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program within DOL-VETS funding has been flat lined at \$38 million for several years – authorized at \$50 million; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) homeless veterans programs have proved to be successful in rehabilitation of the veteran in assisting him/her to become a productive citizen; and

WHEREAS, The VA has begun to invest in more employment services for veterans and is gaining critical knowledge in administering employment services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, The VA is exempt from sequestration, has the singular focus of administering services to veterans and has one singular priority – the well-being of the veteran community; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor has expertise in job placement, job development, vocational counseling, vocational testing, job search training, and any other area of employment services; 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 that calls for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the state workforce agencies to share responsibilities for all Title 38 veterans employment services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA be fully funded to administer the Job for Veterans State Grants (JVSG), establish standards and collect performance data, and the state workforce agencies administer the programs and report directly to VA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That there would be sufficient funding to allow one Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative for each fully functioning workforce center; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor programs continue to provide priority services to veterans and that JVSG staff remain in the workforce centers.