

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

**Resolution No. 358: Support Veterans' Preference in Public Employment**

**Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education**

WHEREAS, Our federal government specially selected as mentally, morally, and physically fit, certain members from its society; specially trained this group, subjected them to stringent rules and regulations, removed them from home, family and employment, asked of them a special sacrifice, required some of them to suffer wounds they will live with forever; and

WHEREAS, A grateful nation through its representative in the Congress of the United States and state legislatures has in recognition of that special service and loss of employment opportunity while defending the country in time of need, extended a long history of employing the returning veterans by enacting the Veterans' Preference Act; and

WHEREAS, The term "veteran" includes every category of socioeconomics, gender, age, religion, ethnic group, race, and creed; and

WHEREAS, Absence from the highly competitive job market due to military service creates an unfair and unequal burden on veterans in competing for employment with non-veteran peers upon completion of military service; and

WHEREAS, The veterans' preference law accomplished the legislative purpose of honoring veterans and provides a small advantage in competing for federal and state government jobs; and

WHEREAS, Veterans' preference requires a veteran must be fully qualified for the position sought; and

WHEREAS, There are reported incidents of hiring officials in both the federal and state government agencies who have ignored veterans' preference in selecting new employees; and

WHEREAS, There have been federal and state legislative efforts to repeal or avoid application of veterans' preference in hiring practices; 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 deplores each and every attempt to degrade, dilute, or modify the historical precedence of giving job eligibility preference to those who are taken from their communities to serve their country in time of war; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That all lawmakers at every level of government are urged to oppose any and all efforts to repeal or circumvent veterans' preference in government hiring practices; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That all executives at every level of government are urged to enforce veterans' preference in their respective government agencies.**