

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

**Resolution No. 373: Oppose Lump Sum Payments for Department of Veterans Affairs  
Disability Compensation**

**Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

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

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation is paid monthly to an eligible veteran at a rate commensurate with diminished earning capacity resulting from the effects of service-connected disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, Such compensation is designed to provide continuous relief from the service-connected disability for as long as the veteran continues to suffer its effects at a compensable level, usually for the rest of the veteran's life; and

WHEREAS, By law, the rate of compensation is determined by the level of disability present, thereby requiring reevaluation of the disability upon a change in its degree; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans may start out with a lower rating, but as they age the degree of disability worsens; and

WHEREAS, There is some discussion in Congress on having the VA consider establishing lump sum payments for veterans with disability ratings of 20 percent or less; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans who are first discharged from the military and have a service-connected disability are usually in a financial bind and would find a lump-sum payment enticing, and would not focus on the long range implications of this decision e.g. later increases, added stipend for having dependents, secondary service-connected disability, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Such lump-sum payments would not, on the whole, be in the best interests of disabled veterans but would be for government savings and convenience; 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 oppose any recommendation, legislative or otherwise, to establish lump-sum payments of Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation.**