

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

**Resolution No. 71: Oppose Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training  
Service Hiring of Non-Veterans**

**Origin: Texas**

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

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) administers employment assistance and employment protection programs serving veterans, members of Armed Forces Reserve Components and eligible persons as defined in and pursuant to Chapters 41, 42 and 43 of Title 38, United States Code (USC); and

WHEREAS, Public Law 107-288 amended 38 USC, Chapter 41 to allow for the appointment of non-veterans to positions of regional administrators, directors in the states assistant directors in the states and "other professional staff assigned to the states"; and

WHEREAS, VETS staff located in regional offices and those serving in the state routinely and extensively interact with state workforce agencies' staffs, members of active and Reserve military components and veterans service organizations, all of whom are veteran or military affiliated; and

WHEREAS, VETS staff would be unable to fully participate in, nor have the full confidence and credibility with the veterans service organizations; and

WHEREAS, VETS staff would not have the credibility of the shared active military service or transition experience from active duty, for which VETS has the responsibility for program delivery leadership; and

WHEREAS, For more than 25 years, the VETS staff have, by Title 38, USC, Chapter 41, been required to be veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion finds it inconceivable that Congress would not find "Veterans Serving Veterans" to be the most appropriate manner of delivering these critical 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 seek and support legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, to require Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) regional administrators, state directors, and assistant state directors and "other professional staff" under VETS to be veterans of the Armed Forces.**