

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

Resolution No. 74: Oppose any Weakening of the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative

Origin: Texas

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, Throughout the nearly two hundred and thirty eight-year history of the United States, the men and women of this nation have served in the Armed Forces in the interest of the collective body of states, united under a central federal government, "to provide for the common defense"; and

WHEREAS, These men and women served the United States under the constitutional authority vested in, and by direction of, the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It has been the finding of numerous surveys and studies that, for a variety of reasons, the vast majority of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States are disadvantaged in pursuing civilian employment and careers, and that veterans helping veterans has proven to be extremely effective; and

WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper that such programs of employment assistance for veterans be provided by direction of, and subject to oversight by, the Congress of the United States to ensure that all veterans who served the United States in uniform in time of war and peace are afforded such services in a uniform manner following completion of their service and return to the several states; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 107-288 has revised Title 38 to eliminate the requirement that Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (DVOP/LVER) staff be veterans and serve only veterans and to reduce the direction and control of such employment assistance programs while relinquishing the direction of veterans services to the discretion of the governors of the several States and/or contracting of such services to for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 107-288 also eliminates the requirement that DVOP/LVER staff be assigned based on veteran intake and veteran population, and creates half-time DVOP positions, thereby eliminating positions available to serve veterans or allowing positions to be assigned at the discretion of the individual state workforce agency, which may or may not adequately assign positions; and

WHEREAS, Such devolution of program responsibility will then be based on each state's elected officials' perspective and may result in either limited services or such variations in employment assistance provided to disabled veterans, while possibly making a mockery of the Congress intent found in Title 38 USC; 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 will support legislation that will require Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER) and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists serve only veterans, and that the assignment of these positions to local one-stop centers be based on veteran populations; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will support legislation that federalizes DVOP and LVER staff member positions.