

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 10 - 11, 2017**

**Resolution No. 25: Department of Veterans Affairs Maintained Medical and Dental School
Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
Submitted By: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has the mission to fulfill President Lincoln's promise, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides care at more than 1,233 health-care facilities, including 168 VA medical centers and 1,053 VHA outpatient clinics; and

WHEREAS, The VHA serves more than 8.9 million veterans each year; and

WHEREAS, The VHA is the nation's largest integrated health-care system; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide, health-care provider shortages are an increasing concern; and

WHEREAS, Medical students accepted into this program will receive a full tuition waiver including costs and materials; and

WHEREAS, Health-care systems must develop programs and strategies that encourage physicians and nurses to develop lasting professional and personal relationships that keep them in the system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2017, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a medical and dental school to train health-care providers who will initially serve veterans; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all health-care providers who graduate from either of the VA's medical or dental school incur a minimum of five (5) years of service commitment to the VA, similar to the commitment to service required of graduates of a military service academy.