

**NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Reno, Nevada  
August 22, 23, 24, 2017**

**Resolution No. 76: Veterans Emergency Room or Urgent Care Facility Relief  
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation  
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, On occasion, a veteran may need emergency care for an injury or illness due to a threat to life or health; and

WHEREAS, The cost for an emergency room visit can vary depending on whether the patient has a health insurance plan or is uninsured and the severity of the injury or illness being treated; and

WHEREAS, The cost for an emergency room visit can run into the thousands of dollars; and

WHEREAS, At other times the need for a visit to an emergency room is unnecessary due to the condition of the injury or illness being less severe; and

WHEREAS, In those instances of less severe conditions, a veteran patient may visit an urgent care center and receive treatment without excessive waiting or high cost; and

WHEREAS, As health-care systems in the United States deal with issues of access to care, increasing patient needs, growing demands on primary and emergency care and increasing costs, urgent care centers provide another option for veterans to use; and

WHEREAS, Veterans should have the option to use either emergency room or urgent care when traveling to a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility would not be practical; and

WHEREAS, Veterans should not expect to suffer financial hardship due to a visit to either an emergency room or urgent care center; and

WHEREAS, It is reasonable to expect the VA to assist in sharing the burden of paying either some or all of the cost for emergency room or urgent care in either a VA or non-VA facility for certain veterans as defined by Title 38 U.S. Code; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion support legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, to require the secretary of veterans affairs to pay the reasonable costs of urgent care provided to certain veterans; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the Department of Veterans Affairs establish cost-sharing amounts for veterans receiving care at an emergency room of the Department of Veterans Affairs.**