

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
October 17-18, 2018**

**Resolution No. 22: Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Student Loan Repayments**  
**Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission**  
**Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission**

WHEREAS, Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not possess the statutory or regulatory authority to retroactively apply Post-9/11 GI educational benefits toward a servicemembers student loan debt if such debt was accrued before his/her entrance into the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2016 GAO report "Student Loans: Oversight of Servicemembers' Interest Rate Cap Could Be Strengthened" over 200,000 servicemembers collectively owe more than \$2.9 billion in student debt, facing risks of loan defaults that may have disruptive consequences upon their release/discharge from active-duty; and

WHEREAS, The Post-9/11 GI Bill is not only a benefit that servicemembers earn, but also a program to recruit and retain America's best and brightest men and women; consequently, providing loan repayment options for the military to bring in higher educated individuals is a powerful incentive; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2018, That The American Legion supports legislation that allows veterans that enter military service with pre-existing student loan debt to retroactively apply their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits toward the repayment of their student loans.**