NINETY-FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
August 28, 29, 30, 2012

Resolution No. 255: Support Efforts Aimed at Improving Child Care Services for Children
Origin: Convention Committee on Children and Youth
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Children and Youth

WHEREAS, The American Legion is deeply concerned about the quality of life issues surrounding our children and youth; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Center for Education Statistics there are approximately 21 million infants, toddlers, and preschool children under the age of six in the United States with more than 8.8 million of these children in child care; and

WHEREAS, Child care services have traditionally been providing care, supervision and protection for children of pre-school and early school age, when the primary caregiver is necessarily absent from the home; and

WHEREAS, A 2005 study by the Florida State University Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy found that high quality child care can accelerate children's social, emotional, cognitive, and verbal development; and

WHEREAS, A 1995 study funded by the Smith Richardson Foundation entitled "The Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes Study" found that of 100 child care centers studied, 92 percent were providing inadequate care to infants and did not meet children's need for health, safety, warm relationships, and learning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28, 29, 30, 2012, That The American Legion is authorized to collaborate with the leading national child care organizations as determined by the National Commission on Children and Youth to the end that The American Legion can maintain an effective role in the promotion of adequate child care programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are encouraged to cooperate with the state and community public or private agencies with day care responsibilities to the end that licensed child care facilities will be available to all children in our nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments and posts are urged to continue to encourage the adoption and implementation of safe and consistent licensing standards for childcare in facilities throughout this nation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That departments and posts be encouraged to assist in raising the level of understanding among the general public about the needs of adequate child care, and urged to commit the resources to achieve a level of quality that is necessary for children to grow in a healthy and safe environment.