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

Resolution No. 149: Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans
Origin: Maryland
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
(As amended)

WHEREAS, To reverse the devastating impact to the economic security of veterans is to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to foster job creation for veterans, through the 3 million veteran small businesses, by adopting and enforcing a "Buy American" policy under the Veterans First Contracting Program at the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, The rates and statistics of critical veteran social issues have been accelerated to higher numbers by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Yet the establishment of acquisition policies fails to establish preference for the more than 3 million American-based veteran small businesses and instead VA continues to divert a larger share of their annual budget to contracts with large businesses who sell products from overseas manufacturers, even when same or similar "Made in the United States" products are available at same or lower pricing; 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 support any legislation that mandates that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs adopt and enforce a "Buy American" policy under the Veterans First Contracting Program at the Department of Veterans Affairs.