NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 6-7, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 2: Inclusive Reproductive Health Services Language at the Department of Veterans Affairs
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2882 (PA) Department Executive Committee
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to advocating for fair, equitable and dignified health care for all veterans through its longstanding support of a strong and responsive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) currently organizes and publishes its reproductive health programs—including fertility assessments, infertility care, contraceptive counseling and pregnancy-related services—under the overarching category titled "Women's Health," regardless of the gender of the veteran receiving reproductive or fertility-related care; and

WHEREAS, This categorization appears to have arisen from VA's historic and necessary effort to expand recognition of, and access to, gender-specific care for women veterans, who for decades were underserved within the VA medical system; and

WHEREAS, VA resources confirm that all fertility and infertility care for veterans—including diagnostic testing, medication management and assisted reproductive services such as in-vitro fertilization—is listed exclusively under Women's Health, even when the treatment pertains to male-factor infertility (Sources: VHA Office of Women's Health; VA Fertility & Infertility Care Program, 2023; Military.com VA Fertility Benefits, 2024); and

WHEREAS, Male veterans experiencing infertility or reproductive health concerns such as testicular trauma, post-deployment toxic exposure, blast-related injury, endocrine disruption or service-connected genitourinary conditions must currently seek treatment under the VA's Women's Health Program even though their needs are unrelated to female-specific health systems; and

WHEREAS, Research in psychology and men's mental health demonstrates that male infertility is associated with increased rates of depression, stress, shame, diminished self-worth, and perceived loss of masculinity—conditions exacerbated when men perceive their condition as stigmatizing or emasculating (Sources: Journal of Men's Health, 2021; American Psychological Association review on male infertility trauma, 2019); and

WHEREAS, Male veterans—many of whom already experience elevated rates of PTSD, depression, toxic exposure–related health issues and combat-related injuries—may face additional emotional harm, embarrassment or social discomfort when required to obtain reproductive care through a program labeled "Women's Health," creating a potential barrier to care and delaying timely medical support; and

WHEREAS, Barriers to reproductive and fertility care have documented impacts on family formation, relationship stability, mental health and quality of life for veterans and their families (Source: VA Center for Women Veterans & VHA Fertility Services Annual Report, 2022); and

WHEREAS, Ensuring that VA health-care programs reflect modern medical practice, gender equity and clear, neutral terminology is consistent with The American Legion's long-standing advocacy for improving veteran access to care, preventing stigma and supporting family readiness; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all veterans—regardless of gender—receive dignified, stigma-free access to the reproductive, fertility and family-building care they have earned through their service; and

WHEREAS, Resolving this classification issue does not require the creation of new benefits, expansion of eligibility or additional congressional appropriations, but instead involves administrative renaming and restructuring of program language within VA communications, websites, clinic signage, scheduling systems and patient guidance documents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 2026, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reclassify and reorganize reproductive and fertility health services under a gender-neutral, medically accurate and inclusive title such as "Reproductive Health Services" or "Fertility & Reproductive Health," ensuring that no veteran is required to receive reproductive or infertility care under a category labeled for another gender; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the VA revise digital platforms, patient navigation systems, clinical signage, educational materials and public communications so that reproductive health services are clearly accessible to all veterans without gender-based mislabeling; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion advocate that the VA train clinical and administrative staff to provide gender-appropriate, trauma-informed support to male veterans seeking reproductive or fertility care, recognizing the documented emotional and mental-health vulnerabilities associated with male infertility.