ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Louisville, Kentucky
September 1, 2, 3, 2026

Resolution No. 19: Oppose Charges for Claims Filing by Unaccredited or For-Profit Parties
Origin: Montana
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its founding in 1919, has maintained a primary mission of advocating for the rights and benefits of America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) allows veterans to file claims for disability compensation at no cost through the assistance of trained and accredited service officers, including those provided by The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Many outside vendors and unaccredited consultants have increasingly marketed paid services to veterans for assistance with filing VA disability claims, often charging high fees or taking a percentage of benefits awarded; and

WHEREAS, These practices can exploit vulnerable veterans and violate the intent of laws that prohibit charging veterans for claim preparation unless accredited by the VA and working within strict fee guidelines; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that no veteran should be forced to pay for access to benefits they have earned through their service to the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 1, 2, 3, 2026, That The American Legion strongly opposes the practice of unaccredited or for-profit vendors charging veterans for assistance with filing Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to strengthen enforcement of laws prohibiting unauthorized claims assistance, increase penalties for violators and improve education and outreach to veterans about free, accredited services available.