

EIGHTY-FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA  
August 27, 28, 29, 2002

**Resolution No. 319: The American Legion Policy on VA Medical Care Mandatory Funding**

**Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) annual budget consists of both mandatory and discretionary funding; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory funding refers to a process where the level of funding is governed by formulas or criteria set forth in authorizing legislation rather than by appropriations; and

WHEREAS, Under budget law, a mandatory program is one that requires provision of benefits to all who meet the eligibility requirements of the law; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory funding is provided for programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and VA compensation and pension; and

WHEREAS, In contrast, discretionary funding is “all other” funding subject to the annual appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, Discretionary funding in VA’s current annual budget provides for programs such as medical care, major and minor construction, National Cemetery Administration, State Extended Care Facility Grants, and State Cemetery Grants; and

WHEREAS, There have been annual struggles to obtain sufficient funding to provide access to quality care for eligible veterans seeking care in VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, A method to provide dependable, stable and sustained funding for veterans health care is needed; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory funding is one component of a combination of funding mechanisms to ensure adequate VHA funding; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina on August 27, 28, 29, 2002, That Congress designate VA medical care as mandatory spending; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That Congress continue to provide discretionary funding required to fully operate other programs within VHA’s budgetary jurisdiction; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That Congress provide, if necessary, supplemental appropriations for budgetary shortfalls in VHA’s mandatory and discretionary appropriations to meet the health care needs of America’s veterans.**