

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 4 – 5, 2011**

Resolution No. 24: The American Legion's Position on Tricare

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes the nation's debt owed to the entire military retirement community for their sacrifices and hardships endured in honorable military service to this nation; and

WHEREAS, Military retirees have borne unique and arduous service conditions for 20 or 30 years that other Americans have not endured, including hazardous duty in foreign countries often involving combat, and extended family separations; and

WHEREAS, America is currently in a fiscally challenging period where increased budget cuts and calls for reduced entitlements may significantly and negatively impact retirees, veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, The continuing decline of experience in military service by Congressional members and the American public in general has led to a disaffection with maintaining entitlements for retirees and veterans; and

WHEREAS, It is anticipated that national security imperatives placed on the Department of Defense due to world wide instability will increase the need for a larger and more deployed active duty and reserve component force; and

WHEREAS, This larger force will ultimately lead to an ever increasing number of retirees; and

WHEREAS, It is anticipated that retiree benefits such as Tricare will become an ever increasing percentage of the Department of Defense budget; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always considered itself a partner with the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion resists increases in Tricare premiums to retirees and adamantly opposes any proposal that will significantly and negatively impact quality of life benefits for honorable military service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis Indiana May 4-5, 2011, That The American Legion shall prevail upon this administration and the Department of Defense (DoD) to reconsider any proposals to implement any increases in military retirees' Tricare enrollment fees, deductibles, or premiums; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That before those proposals are considered all efforts must be shown to have been exhausted to remove waste, fraud, and abuse from the Tricare program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any increases will be reinvested in the Tricare program to improve healthcare access for retirees and their families and not returned to the general DoD budget for other purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any increases should, by law, have no negative impact on retirees financially, and that any increase must be directly tied to and not exceed the annual cost of living adjustment percentage provided to retirees; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the American Legion will continue research and advocate for the best course of action to insure the most effective, lowest cost, and responsible way to deliver healthcare to retirees, veterans, and their families.