TO: ALL LEGION LEADERSHIP

FROM: NATIONAL ADJUTANT RODNEY ROLLAND

The purpose of this email is to address leadership and provide you information to help clarify and explain The American Legion's resolutions application to the Taking care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA)-H.R. 9237 / S.4744.

This legislation touches dozens of TAL's standing resolutions—over 50 are implicated. Any organization carrying that many active resolutions into a comprehensive legislative package is going to face some tension between individual resolutions and the practical judgment calls required to move the broader/beneficial package forward.

That there is friction is not evidence of bad faith or of TAL abandoning its positions. In fact, it is exactly why TAL has a legislative process, employs staff judgment, and relies on sworn agency representations, rather than a mechanical up-or-down resolution check, to guide these calls. Having said that, there is some incorrect messaging (and a misunderstanding of how resolutions have been considered) that alleges the American Legion is in violation of resolution(s).

Below is an explanation of the American Legion's assessment and applicability of several resolutions to TCAVA and we have also included all resolutions that apply to this legislation in a chart below.

Resolution No. 38 (2016): Exempt VA Benefits and Services from Pay-Go Provision

This resolution directs TAL to support legislation exempting veterans' benefits and services from congressional PAYGO requirements. It reflects TAL's longstanding position that the cost of caring for veterans is part of the cost of war and should not require offsets.

The resolution is an affirmative policy objective, not a prohibition when PAYGO is not waived for legislation. It commits TAL to support a specific kind of future legislation. It does not commit TAL to withhold support from every other piece of veterans' legislation until that legislation exists. Congress has not introduced or advanced a bill exempting all veterans' benefits from PAYGO.

Until it does, TAL is on solid ground continuing to evaluate each legislative proposal on its own merits, consistent with its resolutions and established legislative process, while continuing to press for permanent PAYGO relief.

Resolution No. 187 (2016): Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation

This resolution directs TAL to oppose legislative or administrative proposals that dilute or eliminate the VA disability compensation program.

TCAVA does not reduce existing disability compensation for those in receipt. It does amend Title 38, for future compensation rates for specific disabilities, which we acknowledge.

TAL's evaluation of the legislation rested on representations from congressional staff and sworn testimony from VA that the underlying sleep apnea and tinnitus rulemaking was proceeding independent of TCAVA. Based on those representations, TAL understood TCAVA to use projected savings from that rulemaking to fund additional veterans' priorities, not to reduce disability compensation through the legislation itself.

TAL recognizes this is a one-time effort tied to this specific rulemaking, not the start of a pattern. Let us be clear, TAL does not treat this as a template for future PAYGO.

Resolution No. 19 (2023): Protection of Veterans' Disability & Compensation

This resolution likewise directs TAL to oppose proposals that dilute or eliminate the disability compensation program.

Our analysis here tracks Resolution 187 exactly (above), with one addition: Resolution 19 also addresses means testing and taxation. TCAVA does not impose means testing, does not tax disability compensation, and does not alter compensation rates on the whole.

Resolution No. 33 (2022): Disability Rating Criteria

Resolution 33 reflects TAL's longstanding, and unchanged, opposition to VA's proposed sleep apnea and tinnitus rating changes. Unlike the other three resolutions, this one speaks directly to the same rulemaking at issue in TCAVA.

Resolution 33 embodies TAL's longstanding opposition to VA's proposed sleep apnea and tinnitus rating changes, including the view that ratings should not reflect treatment effects and that tinnitus warrants a standalone rating. While this position remains unchanged from the rulemaking process, TCAVA required a distinct legislative judgment: given representations from Congress and VA that the changes would proceed independently, TAL determined the resulting savings should fund other veterans' priorities in the bill rather than revert to the Treasury. This pragmatic choice does not endorse the changes themselves.

Moreover, TAL evaluates comprehensive legislation like TCAVA through its full portfolio of resolutions—not any single one in isolation. The bill advances dozens of priorities (concurrent receipt, survivor benefits, caregiver support, and more), requiring a holistic weighing that favors substantial net benefits to veterans, survivors, and families despite limited tension with Resolution 33. This reflects responsible stewardship, not abandonment of core principles.

Conclusion:

TAL did not walk away from Resolution 33's underlying position but instead made a considered choice to advance the greater good across its full resolution portfolio rather than block a broadly beneficial bill over one contested provision.

On balance—and viewing Section 108 as a reallocation of benefits rather than a net loss; TCAVA represents a net positive advancement of TAL's mission. This assessment integrates both the principled distinction between rulemaking and legislation and the holistic balance-of-resolutions framework. TAL's support for the bill is therefore consistent with its resolution-driven process and duty to veterans.

While there has been no indication that VA intends to rescind the imminent tinnitus and sleep apnea disability compensation rules, if the rules are rescinded, our positions will be re-evaluated.

Below is a quick reference list of all the resolutions that are applicable to TCAVA. Resolutions listed in Section 108 were addressed above.

Quick-Reference Resolution Summary

Issue Area	Bill Sections (H.R. 9237)	Governing American Legion Resolutions
Concurrent Receipt — Major Richard Star Act	Sec. 101	Res. 6 (National Executive Committee, October 2024); Res. 85 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Survivor Benefits — Love Lives On Act and DIC Improvements	Secs. 102–103	Res. 36 (102nd National Convention, 2021); Res. 19 (National Executive Committee, October 2025)
Special Monthly Compensation Expansion	Sec. 104	Res. 3 (National Executive Committee, May 2026)
Claims, C&P Examinations, and Appeals Reform	Secs. 105–110, 112–113	Res. 5 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 4 (National Executive Committee, October 2020); Res. 14 (National Executive Committee, May 2021); Res. 11 (National Executive Committee, October 2025); Res. 9 (National Executive Committee, May 2021)
VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities	Sec. 108	Res. 33 (103rd National Convention, 2022); Res. 187 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res 19 (National Executive Committee, May 2023); Res 38 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Military Sexual Trauma Claims	Sec. 111	Res. 18 (National Executive Committee, May 2021); Res. 67 (96th National Convention, 2014)
GI Bill Modernization	Secs. 201, 203	Res. 18 (103rd National Convention, 2022); Res. 349 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 335 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Apprenticeship Housing Allowance Parity	Sec. 210	Res. 1 (National Executive Committee, May 2026); Res. 25 (National Executive Committee, October 2018)
Adaptive Automobile Benefits	Secs. 202, 204	Res. 16 (99th National Convention, 2017)
Transition Assistance and Solid Start	Secs. 205–208	Res. 70 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 12 (National Executive Committee, May 2018); Res. 64 (103rd National Convention, 2022)
Licensing, Certification, and Emerging Technology Careers	Secs. 209, 211	Res. 338 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 80 (99th National Convention, 2017)
Transportation and Rural Access to Care	Secs. 301, 304, 314, 321	Res. 62 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 75 (99th National Convention, 2017)

Family Caregivers	Secs. 302, 332	Res. 18 (National Executive Committee, May 2022)
TBI, Blast Overpressure, and Hyperbaric Oxygen Research	Secs. 303, 307, 311	Res. 165 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 16 (National Executive Committee, October 2022)
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Research	Secs. 306, 308, 310, 322	Res. 14 (National Executive Committee, May 2022); Res. 20 (National Executive Committee, May 2018); Res. 5 (National Executive Committee, October 2023)
Prosthetics and Adaptive Equipment	Secs. 305, 316, 329	Res. 15 (National Executive Committee, May 2022); Res. 115 (100th National Convention, 2018)
Freely Associated States	Sec. 309	Res. 9 (National Executive Committee, May 2019)
VA–Medicare Coordination	Sec. 319	Res. 138 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Women Veterans	Secs. 323–324	Res. 147 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 37 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Opioid Safety and Overdose Prevention	Secs. 325, 672	Res. 29 (National Executive Committee, May 2017); Res. 13 (National Executive Committee, October 2025)
Service Dogs	Sec. 330	Res. 134 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Toxic Exposure Descendant Research	Sec. 328	Res. 17 (National Executive Committee, October 2025)
Timely Death Reporting and Survivor Administration	Sec. 313	Res. 43 (103rd National Convention, 2022); Res. 18 (National Executive Committee, October 2025)
Fisher House Availability	Sec. 320	Res. 85 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Major Medical Facility Construction	Sec. 331	Res. 6 (98th National Convention, 2016)
VA Emergency Response	Sec. 405	Res. 188 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Memorial Headstones and Markers	Sec. 501	Res. 4 (104th National Convention, 2023)
Burial Benefits with Urn or Commemorative Plaque	Sec. 502	Res. 14 (National Executive Committee, October 2024)
Community Care Eligibility and Access Standards	Secs. 601–608	Res. 14 (National Executive Committee, October 2022); Res. 31 (103rd National Convention, 2022); Res. 22 (102nd National Convention, 2021)
Community Care Quality, Contracting, and Oversight — VA as Center of Care	Secs. 609–613	Res. 7 (National Executive Committee, October 2023); Res. 13 (National Executive Committee, May 2022)
Telehealth and Cross-State Practice	Secs. 604, 638, 671	Res. 19 (National Executive Committee, October 2021)

Care Coordination and Scheduling Modernization	Secs. 315, 318, 407, 603, 673	Res. 7 (National Executive Committee, October 2025); Res. 14 (National Executive Committee, October 2022)
Mental Health Treatment Programs	Secs. 621–622	Res. 17 (National Executive Committee, May 2022); Res. 142 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 6 (National Executive Committee, October 2023); Res. 37 (98th National Convention, 2016)
VHA Workforce, Staffing, and Human Capital	Secs. 631–644, 658	Res. 115 (98th National Convention, 2016); Res. 337 (98th National Convention, 2016)
Infrastructure and Capital Assets — VITAL Act	Secs. 651–664	Res. 6 (98th National Convention, 2016)

Note: Our staff and Legislative Chairman are available to provide briefings or explanation to your department as requested and are standing by to support.