

**NINETY-NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Reno, Nevada
August 22, 23, 24, 2017**

Resolution No. 82: Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections

Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) rule on Gainful Employment [Docket ID ED-2014-OPE-0039] requires vocational programs at for-profit higher education institutions and non-degree programs at community colleges to meet minimum thresholds with respect to the debt-to-income rates of their graduates at the risk of losing access to all federal financial aid; and

WHEREAS, This requirement protects both students and taxpayers from waste, fraud and abuse by requiring schools to disclose basic information about program costs and outcomes and prevents funding for programs that consistently leave students with debts they cannot repay; and

WHEREAS, ED's rule on Borrower Defense [Docket ID ED-2015-OPE-0103] codifies a process for providing student loan relief to defrauded borrowers, ensures that students at schools that close suddenly know their options and that their loans are automatically discharged if they do not continue their studies within three years of the school's closure, and protects veterans and military servicemembers for bearing the costs for the wrongdoing of schools; and

WHEREAS, In June 2017, the secretary of education suspended said rules from taking effect, resetting a rulemaking process that took two years to complete with no solicitation from military stakeholders for input; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion support legislation and/or administrative rulemaking that protects and enforces the principles upon which Gainful Employment and Borrower Relief were drafted in previous rulemaking; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion insists that veterans' interests be represented on any new negotiated rulemaking committee on Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense, as they have been for previous negotiations.