

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DOUBLETREE HOTEL, MOON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA  
JANUARY 15 - 16, 2022**

Resolution No. 1125

Submitted by: William Whitmoyer  
Department Legislative Chairman

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WHEREAS, The American Legion is the largest Veterans Service Organization in the United States of America, with nearly two million wartime Veteran members; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania is the largest Department within the National organization; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion, and has been a primary focus since its inception in 1919; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was instrumental in establishing a wide variety of Veterans Services, including the Veterans Administration, and the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the G.I. Bill, throughout its over 100-year existence; and

WHEREAS, Service Officers of The American Legion are among the best trained throughout the nation, and have provided countless hours of volunteer hours to securing services for Veterans of our nation and our Commonwealth for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Many other federally chartered Veterans Service Organizations model their Service Officers after those of The American Legion, and cooperate extensively to form a strong, effective network in securing services and many millions of dollars in benefits for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The patently false statement, "The sheer number of veterans' service organizations across this Commonwealth has made the coordination of services, cooperation and oversight difficult" within Senate Resolution 170 of 2019 is an egregious affront and insult, not only to The American Legion, and other federally chartered Veterans Service Organizations, but also to the millions of Pennsylvania Veteran members of these organizations who have devoted millions of volunteer hours to securing

services for our fellow Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and other federally chartered Veterans Service Organizations share the common goal to improve access to Veterans Services for Veterans within the Commonwealth, but have very real concerns about the means and processes of improving access; and

WHEREAS, The deliberate exclusion of proper representation of these federally chartered Veterans Service Organizations from the Advisory Committee established by Senate Resolution 170 of 2019 shows an avarice and a negative bias towards these honorable organizations, and a willful exclusion of their testimonies, and aversion to an honest conversation about improving access to Veterans Services for Pennsylvania's nearly 800,000 Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The deliberate exclusion of proper representation of these federally chartered Veterans Service Organizations appears to be an attempt to avoid hearing their concerns, and silence the voices of the hundreds of thousands of Veterans they represent, and does no justice towards finding a fair, balanced, and impartial solution to the issue of Veterans Services within the Commonwealth; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That The Pennsylvania American Legion Department Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled at the DoubleTree Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, Moon Township, PA, January 15-16, 2022, does reject Senate Resolution 170 of 2019, the composition of the Advisory Committee established therein, and therefore also refutes the validity of any report produced by such; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The Pennsylvania American Legion Department Executive Committee asserts that any Advisory Committee concerning Veterans Services in the Commonwealth, in order to be fair, balanced, and impartial, must necessarily include a balance of representation by duly-elected, Department-level leadership of the federally chartered Veterans Service Organizations, or their appointees; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate, all members of the Pennsylvania Joint Government Commission, and the leadership of the member organizations of the**

**Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Westerman Wolf.**

APPROVED  REJECTED \_\_\_\_\_ REFERRED \_\_\_\_\_ CONSOLIDATED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_