

**ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Charlotte, North Carolina
August 29, 30, 31, 2023**

Resolution No. 14: Preserve Housing Benefits for Online Education

Origin: Minnesota

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
(As Amended)**

WHEREAS, Chapter 33 of the GI Bill, also known as the post-9/11 GI Bill, is a vital piece of legislation that provides education benefits to eligible veterans and their dependents, assisting them in their transition to civilian life and supporting their pursuit of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Online education has become increasingly popular and accessible, offering flexible learning options for individuals facing various barriers to attending traditional brick-and-mortar institutions; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans, due to their unique circumstances, such as disabilities, family responsibilities, or geographic limitations, find online education particularly suitable for their needs; and

WHEREAS, Restricting housing benefits solely to veterans attending in-person classes would place an unnecessary burden on those who opt for online courses, limiting their access to educational opportunities and hindering their ability to make progress toward their academic and career goals; and

WHEREAS, Online education allows student veterans to customize their learning experience around unique challenges such as physical disabilities, mental health concerns, or family obligations, enabling them to balance their education with other responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Veterans residing in remote areas with limited or no nearby educational institutions can access quality education regardless of their location through online courses, eliminating the need for costly relocations; and

WHEREAS, Pursuing higher education is often a vital part of veterans' reintegration and career transition; and

WHEREAS, Housing benefits for online education support their successful transition by providing necessary financial assistance and reducing potential financial stressors; and

WHEREAS, Online education offers a wide range of specialized programs that may not be available locally. Veterans with specific career goals or interests that require specialized training can pursue those options through online courses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 29, 30, 31, 2023, That The American Legion strongly advocates for the preservation of housing benefits for student veterans pursuing online education under Chapter 33 of the GI Bill and the national organization urges policymakers at the federal level to recognize the importance of inclusive policies that encompass both in-person and online learning, to better support student veterans in achieving their academic and career aspirations, and to remove unnecessary barriers that hinder their educational and professional development.