

Resolution 13
Rehabilitation Committee

Department of Veterans Affairs Contract Compensation & Pension Examinations

Whereas, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established contracts with non-VA entities to assist with conducting Compensation & Pension Examinations as an answer to the backlog of claims within the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and

Whereas, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has seen a decline in the demand for Compensation & Pension Examinations at VHA facilities, and

Whereas, the VHA facility Directors are starting to reassign and or allowing vacancies to linger within the Comp & Pen offices, and

Whereas, the Secretary of the VA has let these contracts at a tune of 6.8 million dollars of taxpayer money, and

Whereas, the contractors have repeatedly contacted veterans awaiting exams and scheduled them for exams a facilities that are greater distances then the VHA facility that could have conducted the exams, and

Whereas, the contractor has scheduled veterans for exams at locations where there is no one available to conduct the exams, causing stress and undue financial cost to the veteran, and

Whereas, there is an obvious lack of oversight from the VA to ensure the contractor schedule the appropriate exams in a timely manner, now therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Secretary of the VA establish a priority to the Comp & Pen examinations to first, preserve the Comp & Pen Offices within the VHA facilities, where all applicable records can be reviewed by the examiner, and an informed nexus can be provided, in reference to the said claimed condition, and

Be it further Resolved, that the Secretary of the VA review the effectiveness of the contractors and the exams they are responsible to schedule in relationship to answering the question of "service connection", and

Be it further Resolved, that when the contractor effectiveness is not appropriate, the Secretary should void the contract and establish contract within the VISNs to meet the Geographical needs of the VBA and the veterans who are waiting on the exams, and

Be it Finally Resolved, that this resolution be voted on at the Department Convention in Syracuse, NY on July 20-22,2017 and if approved, be forwarded to the National Organization for consideration at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada on August 18-24, 2017.