

WHEREAS, There are approximately 21 million veterans living today in the United States totaling 7% of the total population; and

WHEREAS, Every branch of the United States military used asbestos products during the 20th century; and

WHEREAS Many veterans are not only exposed to asbestos during their time in service but are also exposed to asbestos in post-service careers they are qualified for once they are out of the service; and

WHEREAS, For a veteran to receive eligibility for VA Benefits related to asbestos-related illnesses, the veteran must provide a written asbestos exposure summary and additional evidence proving that at least 50% of their lifetime asbestos exposure occurred while they were in the military; and

WHEREAS, illnesses related to asbestos exposure take 20-40 years to develop; and

WHEREAS, veterans account for 30% of mesothelioma cases diagnosed each year and the 10,000 annual deaths from all asbestos-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who cannot receive service-connected disability for their asbestos exposure are still forced to pay out of pocket for their treatment; and

WHEREAS, These veterans and their surviving next of kin are entitled to the due process in court for their private asbestos claims; and, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio Department Executive Committee, assembled at Department Headquarters on August 6, 2022, that The American Legion Department of Ohio urges the Ohio General Assembly to support Ohio Veterans and their right to due process when it comes to non-service connected asbestos claims cases.