

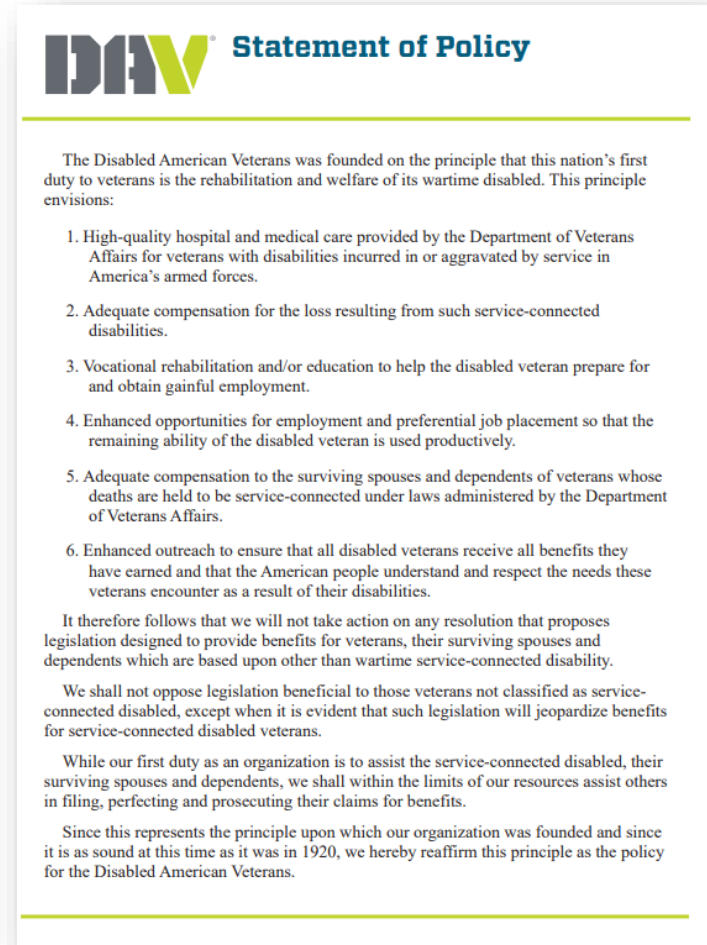
Preparing High-Quality Resolutions for Department Conventions

Why Resolutions Matter

- Resolutions are DAV's legislative authority.
- They drive the Critical Policy Goals (CPGs).
- They shape testimony, oversight responses, and advocacy priorities.
- They ensure DAV speaks with one unified voice.
- They protect DAV's credibility with Congress and VA.

DAV Statement of Policy (Anchor Point)

- “This nation’s first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation and welfare of its wartime disabled.”
- “High-quality hospital and medical care... adequate compensation... vocational rehabilitation... employment... outreach...”

A graphic of a document titled "DAV Statement of Policy". The document features the DAV logo in green and blue at the top left. Below the title, a horizontal line separates the header from the main text. The text describes the organization's founding principle and lists six envisions. It also includes paragraphs about legislative stances and organizational duties.

DAV Statement of Policy

The Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation and welfare of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions:

1. High-quality hospital and medical care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's armed forces.
2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.
3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.
4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.
5. Adequate compensation to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
6. Enhanced outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people understand and respect the needs these veterans encounter as a result of their disabilities.

It therefore follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents which are based upon other than wartime service-connected disability.

We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

While our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, their surviving spouses and dependents, we shall within the limits of our resources assist others in filing, perfecting and prosecuting their claims for benefits.

Since this represents the principle upon which our organization was founded and since it is as sound at this time as it was in 1920, we hereby reaffirm this principle as the policy for the Disabled American Veterans.

The BPTL Role

You are not just a drafter — you are a quality-control leader.

- Your responsibilities include:
 - ▶ Coaching chapters on resolution development.
 - ▶ Identifying gaps in the resolution book.
 - ▶ Preventing duplicative or non-germane submissions.
 - ▶ Ensuring alignment with the Statement of Policy.
 - ▶ Coordinating with department leadership.
 - ▶ Serving as the first line of review before national submission.

The Resolution Lifecycle

Idea →

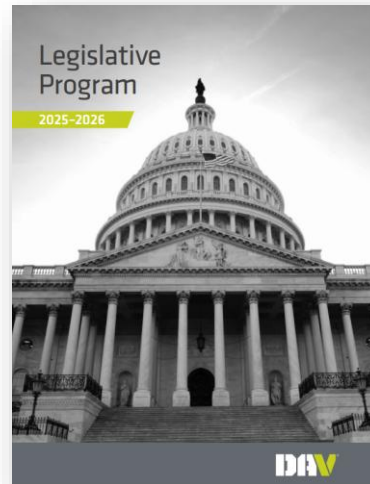
Draft →

Department Review →

National Submission →

CPG Integration →

Testimony & Advocacy



Types of Resolutions

You are not just a drafter — you are a quality-control leader.

- Existing resolutions (renewals).
- New resolutions (emerging issues).
- Expiring resolutions (must be re-submitted).
- Strategic gap resolutions (identified by BPTLs).

When to Submit Existing Resolutions

Submit when:

- The issue remains unresolved.
- The authority is still needed.
- The resolution supports an ongoing CPG.
- The resolution is foundational to DAV's mission.

Do not submit when:

- It duplicates another resolution.
- The issue is obsolete.
- It contradicts updated law or policy.

Writing Strong Resolutions (Structure)

1. **Title** - Clear, concise, action-oriented.
2. **Whereas Clauses** - Context, facts, justification.
3. **Resolved Clause** -The specific action DAV supports.

Example: Strong Whereas Clauses

“**WHEREAS**, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities assigns a non-compensable rating for asymptomatic disabilities...”

Why it works:

- Cites a specific policy.
- Identifies a gap.
- Establishes a factual basis.

Example: Strong Resolved Clause

“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV supports the assignment of a compensable evaluation (10%) for non-compensable disabilities that require medication...”

Why it works:

- Clear.
- Actionable.
- Within DAV authority.
- Tied to the problem described.

Weak vs. Strong Resolution Examples

Weak	Strong
“VA should do better for veterans.”	“DAV supports expanding eligibility for X by doing Y.”
Vague, emotional	Specific, actionable
Outside DAV authority	Within Statement of Policy
No evidence	Cites facts or law

Resolution Evaluation

Every resolution must pass all five tests:

- Mission-aligned (Statement of Policy).
- Non-duplicative.
- Clear and actionable.
- Supported by facts.
- Within DAV authority.

Common Pitfalls

- Submitting the entire resolution book.
- Writing resolutions to solve local chapter, department or state disputes or needs.
- Submitting administrative issues (not legislative).
- Drafting resolutions outside DAV's mission.
- Using emotional language instead of factual justification.
- Duplicating existing resolutions.

BPTL Pre-Convention Checklist

- Review last year's resolutions.
- Identify expiring or critical items.
- Align to CPGs.
- Meet with department leadership.
- Prepare coaching materials for chapters.
- Establish internal deadlines.

Department Convention Workflow

During Convention:

- Review submissions in real time.
- Ensure proper formatting.
- Correct errors on the spot.
- Prevent non-germane resolutions.
- Coordinate with the resolutions committee.

Submission Requirements

National Deadline:

- “**July 17, 2026** at resolutions@dav.org”

Required:

- Final approved text.
- Proper formatting.
- Department certification.
- Contact information for follow-up.

When to Contact the National Legislative Team

Contact national when a resolution:

- Involves statutory interpretation.
- Conflicts with existing DAV policy.
- Touches appropriations or budget scoring.
- Addresses emerging or complex issues.
- Requires technical expertise (healthcare, toxic exposure, benefits law).

Resources & Support

- DAV CAN
- Legislative Resources
- National Legislative Team

“If you need assistance ... please reach out to the legislative department.”



DAV CAN

(202) 554-3501

LegislativePublic@dav.org



Legislative Resources

Thank you!

Your leadership ensures DAV speaks with one unified, authoritative voice.

Thank you for protecting the integrity of DAV's legislative process.

DAV National Legislative Team