

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 722

Subject: Hot Springs VA Hospital

Submitted by: D1, D3, D7, D9

Referred to:
(1) DEC

WHEREAS, The Black Hills Health Care System has proposed to close the current VA Hospital and Domiciliary in Hot Springs, SD and move it to Rapid City, SD; and

WHEREAS, The VA has proposed to build a new outpatient clinic in Hot Springs, SD and move all the specialty clinics, the rehabilitation facilities, and the domiciliary to Rapid City, SD; and

WHEREAS, The VA also has stated, they would like to contract with the local hospitals and other care facilities, for care of the veterans, but most of the local facilities do not have the knowledge of veterans benefits and not to handle the VA system; and

WHEREAS, The move of the hospital and specialty clinic's, and rehabilitation clinic would add between 60 and 150 miles for the veterans of Western Nebraska, to receive health care, if they had to go to Rapid City, SD or Ft. Meade, hospital in Sturgis, SD for these appointments, and also add an extra expense and a burden, on the veterans' health care; and

WHEREAS, The loss of the VA facility in Hot Springs, SD will cause many Nebraska veterans and their families to incur lodging costs beyond their means for early scheduled appointments and multi-day hospital stay events; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Nebraska speaks in one voice the will of 26,000 members when advocating for the health and welfare of Nebraska's veterans; and

WHEREAS, The veterans are now being taken care of at the VA facilities at Hot Springs, SD and the facilities at the Hot Springs, SD are adequate to take care of the needs of the veterans, with some repair needed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022, That the Department go on record of supporting the saving of the Hot Springs VA Hospital in Hot Springs, SD and keeping it in Hot Springs, SD; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Department of Nebraska, supports all efforts in keeping the facilities open, for the veterans of Western Nebraska and that this resolution be sent to our Senators and Representatives of Nebraska, for their support, of keeping the facilities in Hot Springs, SD for the veterans of Western Nebraska.