



## T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 838-8143

July 10, 2018

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman, Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman, Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member, Armed Services  
Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member, Armed Services  
Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Messrs. Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans' associations representing more than 5.5 million currently serving, retired, veterans and their families and survivors, thank you and the committees for your efforts to protect the interests of servicemembers in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for FY2019 (NDAA).

We greatly appreciate your committee's efforts to protect the quality of life for military personnel, future retirees, and their families by supporting the 2.6% pay raise at ECI and maintaining current calculations for basic allowance for housing.

We also **strongly support** your commitment to increase military personnel end strengths in both the active and reserve components of the services in order to meet national security strategy requirements and dwell-time needs as our forces prepare for and respond to security challenges around the globe.

We **strongly oppose** Section 701 of S. 2987. This provision eliminates the grandfathering for beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE prior to January 1, 2018 with the intent to establish a single co-payment structure for all beneficiaries to "correct an inequity."

This provision, as written, not only disregards the intent of the FY17 NDAA, which was to reflect the value of many years of service. It also imposes yet another round of significant health care cost increases on those who served a full career in uniform and have already endured cost increases following the Defense Health Agency's unilateral decision last year to implement

changes to the fee table last year.

The cumulative impact of higher copays, enrollment fees, higher catastrophic caps and a new non-network deductible would significantly erode the value of the health care benefit earned over many years of service and sacrifice.

Also disappointing is that Section 701 does nothing to address the steep copays for physical, speech and occupational therapies, as well as mental health visits, a critical flaw in the new TRICARE copay construct.

Beneficiaries continue to have negative experiences with the managed care support contract transitions which makes this increase even more egregious. It is apparent to us additional fees collected are not being used to maintain or improve the military health care system, but are instead being used to fund readiness or other unspecified priorities.

For these reasons, and for the sake of all those current beneficiaries who have faithfully served this country, we respectfully ask you not to include Section 701 in the final version of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for FY2019


Sincerely,  
The Military Coalition.  
(signatures enclosed)

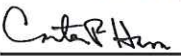
  
Air Force Association

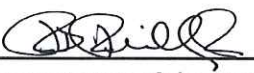
  
Air Force Sergeants Association

  
Air Force Women Officers  
Associated

  
AMVETS

  
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

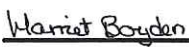
  
Association of the United States Army

  
Association of the United States Navy

  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public  
Health Service, Inc

  
CWOA, US Coast Guard

  
Fleet Reserve Association

  
Gold Star Wives of America


  
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans  
of America

  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

  
Marine Corps League

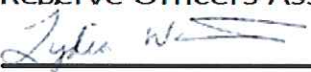
  
Marine Corps Reserve Association

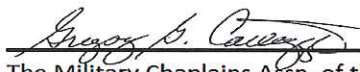
  
Military Officers Association of America

  
Military Order of the Purple Heart


  
National Military Family Association

  
Reserve Officers Association

  
Service Women's Action Network

  
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

  
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

  
Tragedy Assistance Program for  
Survivors

  
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

  
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

  
Vietnam Veterans of America

  
Wounded Warrior Project