

July 12th, 2018

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
House Armed Services Committee
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
House Armed Services Committee
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Chairmen McCain and Thornberry and Ranking Members Reed and Smith,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization comprised of the military and veteran service organizations listed below, asks that you remove section 701 of the Senate's 2019 National Defense Authorization Act that, once again, attempts to save money at the expense of currently serving and retired military personnel through TRICARE fee increases.

Language in the senate's version of the 2019 NDAA seeks to undo the hard-fought results of veteran service organization advocacy efforts in 2017 and 2018 that prevented TRICARE cost increases from affecting current retirees or those currently serving and/or who join the military prior to January, 2018. If allowed into the final bill, upon retirement, all current service members will become subject to fee increases. Likewise, those who are currently retired—including many who are living on fixed incomes—will be immediately and unfairly subject to them.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance believes that increasing out-of-pocket TRICARE expenses at this stage represents another transparent attempt to create savings in the DOD budget on the backs of retirees and future retirees. This would amount to a broken promise to those who have already earned those benefits and we strenuously urge you to leave in place the existing language that was agreed to in conference and subsequently signed into law by the President in 2017.

On behalf of our nation's military retirees, both present and future, we thank you for your attention to this aspect of the 2019 NDAA. We eagerly await the reconciled bill and are confident that your influence, paired with your desire to maintain the integrity of the Congress in the eyes of those who have dedicated twenty or more years of their lives to military service, can result in an honorable decision to maintain the 2017 NDAA's language with regard to this particular issue.

Sincerely,



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National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Letter

American Military Society
American Retirees Association
AMVETS
Armed Forces Retirees Association
Army and Navy Union
Association of the United States Navy
Military Order of Foreign Wars
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of the World Wars
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Reserve Officers Association
The Flag & General Officers Network
The Independence Fund
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors