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NATIONAL MILITARY **NMVA** & VETERANS ALLIANCE  
STRENGTH THROUGH COLLABORATION

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June 6th, 2017

Senator Jerry Moran, Chairman  
Military Construction Subcommittee  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Charlie Dent, Chairman  
Military Construction Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Brian Schatz, Ranking Member  
Military Construction Subcommittee  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Wasserman-Schultz, Ranking Member  
Military Construction Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Moran, Chairman Dent and Ranking Members Schatz and Wasserman-Shultz:

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), a non-partisan advocacy group comprised of both military and veterans' service organizations, writes to urge you not accept proposals within the President's budget that would negatively impact veterans and military retirees.

Specifically, we ask that you reject the portions of the President's budget proposal that will eliminate the Individual Unemployability (I.U.) benefit for veterans and retirees at age 62 as well as the proposed ten year round down of disability compensation.

Eliminating I.U. will significantly impact 208,000 disabled veterans and retirees. I.U. assists veterans who have 60%-90% disability ratings who, because of their disability, are unable to work by allowing them to receive VA disability pay at the 100% disability rate. Stripping this benefit will cost each veteran and/or retiree, on average, \$1,300.00 per month. Of course, due to their disability, these Americans will be unable to make up this financial shortage.

Instituting a ten year round down of veterans disability compensation will have a cumulative effect of taking \$2.7 billion away from injured and ill veterans and the survivors of those who die because of military service. It is unconscionable that those who have made such sacrifices be asked to pay for their own benefits.

NMVA appreciates efforts to fund the Veterans Choice program and we understand that monies made available through cuts in I.U. and disability compensation will be used to pay for Choice. However, asking veterans and military retirees to sacrifice earned and existing benefits to pay for another should not be the answer.


The President's budget is currently just a proposal. NMVA urges you to strip these aspects of his proposal from any budget proposal that your committee drafts. Eliminating I.U. will levy a significant financial burden upon those without the ability to make up such a large financial shortage. A ten year round down of veterans disability compensation is simply one more example of asking veterans and military retirees to shoulder a financial burden in order to balance a budget. Both of these issues, if implemented, will be viewed as promises broken by Members of Congress.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request and for your continued service.

Sincerely,



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### **National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Request**

American Military Retirees Association  
American Military Society  
American Retirees Association  
Army Navy Union  
AMVETS  
Association of the United States Navy  
Korean War Veterans Foundation  
Military Order of Foreign Wars  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Society of Military Widows  
Square Deal for Veterans  
The Flag & General Officers Network  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
Vietnam Veterans of America