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

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June 6th, 2017

Senator Mike Enzi, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Budget  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Diane Black, Chairwoman  
House Committee on Budget  
B-234 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Budget  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. John Yarmuth, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Budget  
B-234 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Enzi, Chairwoman Black and Ranking Members Sanders and Yarmuth:

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 both current and future military retirees.

Specifically, we ask that you reject the portion of the President's budget proposal that will impose higher TRICARE fees for working-age retirees.

Increasing TRICARE fees for working-age retirees is a battle that NMVA successfully fought to prevent during the 114th session of Congress. President Trump's budget proposal seeks to undo a compromise that was struck last year by removing the "grandfathering" of TRICARE increases for currently serving and retired military personnel. If this proposal passes, upon retirement, all current service members will become subject to these fee increases. Likewise, those who are currently retired will be immediately subject to them. This was a hard fought battle that was won when the 2017 NDAA was signed last year. Allowing these fees, which will cost retirees hundreds of dollars a month in "participation" fees, deductibles, and catastrophic caps, to be imposed now will be viewed as a broken promise by both the Executive and Legislative branches.

The President's budget is currently just a proposal. We urge you to strip this provision from any budget proposal that your committee drafts. Imposing increased TRICARE fees, in spite of the law that was passed last year, on current retirees and current service members who will become retirees, will increase costs by hundreds of dollars per month and will be viewed as a promise 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  
Reserve Officers Association  
Society of Military Widows  
Square Deal for Veterans  
The Flag & General Officers Network  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors