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

June 6th, 2017

Senator Thad Cochran, Chairman
Defense Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Kay Granger, Chairwoman
Defense Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Richard Durbin, Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Cochran, Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Members Durbin and Visclosky:

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