



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

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July 25, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, is grateful to you and the Armed Services Committee for your efforts to protect the interests of servicemembers in the FY2007 National Defense Authorization Bill.

There are many initiatives the Coalition supports that appear in both the House and Senate bills. We are particularly grateful for both chambers' actions in support of increasing/restoring Army, Army National Guard, and Marine Corps end strength, approving targeted pay raises for warrant officers and certain enlisted members, authorizing new recruiting and retention incentives, prohibiting most TRICARE fee increases for 2007, eliminating most mail-order pharmacy copays, authorizing more equitable housing allowances for Guard/Reserve, and continuing to focus on mental health/PTSD needs.

The attached matrix highlights Coalition recommendations concerning selected differences between the House- and Senate-passed bills. Several priorities merit special mention:

TRICARE Cost Increases and Enrollment

The Coalition strongly supports the Committees' actions in barring any increase in TRICARE Prime fees for 2007 pending further evaluation of cost projections and evaluation of other alternative options. We believe strongly that the same logic should be applied consistently to all TRICARE fees and, therefore, urge the conferees to adopt the Senate provision barring any retail pharmacy increase and the House provision barring any increase in the TRICARE Standard inpatient copay or TRICARE Reserve Select premium for the same period. The Coalition is particularly strong in its belief that there should be no enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard. TRICARE Standard is the basic military health benefit and provides beneficiaries no guarantee that a provider will even accept them. An enrollment fee should only be charged if care is guaranteed, as it is in TRICARE Prime. Enrollment in Standard would be strictly for the government's convenience, as the primary impact on beneficiaries would be denial of claims payment for many thousands of members who inevitably would not get the word of any requirement to enroll. Beneficiaries should not be charged a \$25/\$40 "nuisance fee" when there is no benefit to enrollment. The Coalition is skeptical of assertions that the intent of enrollment is to manage beneficiaries' care, given that little or no effort has been expended in the past to manage care of

Standard beneficiaries whose chronic claims experience is well known to TRICARE officials. If enrollment in TRICARE Standard is to be considered, the conferees should specify that any unenrolled beneficiary who files a Standard claim shall be enrolled automatically rather than having his or her claim denied.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Fixes

The Coalition very strongly favors the Senate-passed provisions that would: (a) end deduction of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from SBP annuities when the member's death is service-connected and (b) require immediate implementation of 30-year paid-up SBP coverage. Recent SGLI and death gratuity increases and the authority to transfer SBP to children help only a small minority of survivors, while the vast majority of widows affected by the SBP/DIC offset get no benefit from these initiatives. And many recent survivors who are able to transfer SBP to children can do so only at the expense of eliminating their longer-term survivor benefits. The Coalition believes very strongly that the VA indemnity payment should be added to SBP, not substituted for it, when military service caused the member's death. Thousands of World War II and Korea retirees already have met paid-up SBP criteria and already have paid 25% more SBP premiums than post-1978 retirees will ever pay. Those who will survive until the October 2008 implementation date in current law should not be forced to pay an even larger 33% "Greatest Generation tax." They have earned and deserve immediate paid-up SBP status.

End Strength

The Coalition continues to believe that active duty and Guard/Reserve ground forces are too small to meet the mission requirements expected for the foreseeable future. TMC supports the increases proposed by both Committees for the Army and Marine Corps. However, we are very concerned that reductions in active duty and Reserve components for the Navy and Air Force are driven by budget considerations rather than requirements and have the potential to cause significant operations tempo concerns in the future.

Pay Raise

The Coalition urges the conferees most strongly to adopt the House-approved 2.7% uniformed services pay raise, to continue the efforts of the Armed Services Committees over the past seven years toward restoring the relative balance that existed in 1982, the last time the uniformed services pay was recognized as being "generally comparable" with private sector pay. As of 2006, uniformed services pay levels still fall 4.5% short of recouping servicemembers' pay losses due to past pay raise caps. The 2.2% growth in the Employment Cost Index for FY2007 yields the smallest pay raise since 1988 – offering a unique opportunity to help close the remaining pay gap at considerably less cost than in other years. Currently serving members who are sacrificing so much for the rest of the country surely deserve no less.

Guard and Reserve Health Care

The Coalition strongly endorses the House-approved initiative to provide equal and permanent health coverage to all drilling members of the Guard and Reserve who agree to continue in the Selected Reserve. State Adjutants General and senior Reserve leaders are virtually universal in asserting that this will be an important recruiting and retention tool, and that the current plan is more expensive than most servicemembers are willing or able to pay. A federal government that already provides health coverage to its part-time federal civilian employees and its mobilized reservist-employees owes no less to members and families of the Selected Reserve who are bearing such a disproportional burden in the war on terrorism. The Coalition is mindful that, last year, the

Senate failed in its efforts to persuade the House to agree to a provision virtually identical to the provision passed by the House (and not by the Senate) this year. The Coalition believes strongly that both chambers should agree on including this important provision part in the FY2007 bill.

Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund

The Coalition most strongly urges the conferees to adopt Section 589 of the House-passed bill, which would reclarify congressional intent and direct that the TRICARE for Life (TFL) trust fund deposit shall not be charged, credited, classified, or scored in any way against the Defense budget. Simply put, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense are using this non-outlay accrual accounting requirement as an excuse to inappropriately under fund other readiness requirements, and then portraying the problem as the fault of military beneficiaries rather than accepting responsibility for their very conscious budget decisions. The House language would reemphasize Congress' clear statutory intent that TFL should be funded independently in a way that does not come at the expense of other readiness requirements.

Concurrent Receipt

The Coalition heartily endorses the Senate proposal to provide full, immediate payment of concurrent retired disability pay for otherwise qualifying retirees rated by the VA as "unemployable," effective January 1, 2005. There is no distinction between unemployables and other retirees paid at the 100% rate for any other purpose – including payment of combat-related special compensation. The arbitrary forcing of this group – the only group certified by the VA as being unable to work – to wait until 2009 for full payment is grossly unfair and inappropriate.

Guard and Reserve Retirement

The Military Coalition believes strongly that something must be done to recognize and offset the adverse impact of multiple mobilizations on Guard and Reserve members' civilian retirement programs. The government has changed the rules on these members to require them to spend up to 25% of their working lives in uniform, which means thousands will have less opportunity to build the kind of civilian retirement plan they envisioned when they joined the Selected Reserve many years ago. The Senate-passed initiative to reduce the Reserve retirement age by three months for each 90 days mobilized to active duty since Sept. 11, 2001 begins to recognize this impact, while also encouraging additional periods of active service.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Coalition's views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Attachment: TMC Recommendations on House/Senate Differences

Cc: Armed Services Committee Members

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Air Force Sergeants Association

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Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Active Force Issues</p> <p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 333 – Rotational Crew Experiments Require SecNav to report on ship rotational crew experiments to study effects on ship wear and tear and crew morale.</p>	<p>Support House provision</p>
<p>Sec. 351 – Comptroller General report on readiness of Army and Marine Corps. GAO to conduct report to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current assessments of readiness of USA and USMC active and reserve components • Ability of USA and USMC to provide trained and ready forces for ongoing commitments and future conflicts; • Analysis of the equipment availability for training; • Analysis of the operational tempo of USA and USMC personnel; • Assessment of USA and USMC efforts to mitigate high operational tempo; • Description of policy USA and USMC are using to mobilize reserve component personnel and assessment of projected numbers expected to be available to be deployed under that policy. 	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 352 – Study of Exposure To Contaminated Water At Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Require SecNav/National Academy of Sciences study within 60 days of enactment, with report due in 18 mos. Take steps to publicize potential exposure of former Lejeune residents/employees.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 373 – Extension of DoD telecommunications benefit program. Extend from 9/30/06 to 60 days after SecDef determines contingency operation has ended. Authorize SecDef to extend benefit to members hospitalized as a result of wounds incurred during the contingency operation. Require SecDef report NLT 90 days after enactment of this act on the program, its benefits and any improvements needed.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 502 – Time in Grade requirements for O-2. Similar temporary provision, but reverts to 24 mos eff. 10/1/08.	Sec. 504 – Time in Grade requirements for O-2. Reduces the minimum time in grade for promotion to O-3 to 18 months (vs. 24).	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 533 – Timely notice of long-term deployments. SecDef must report number of members since 9/11/01 who did not receive at least 30 days notice of 180+ deployment.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 534 – Consideration of 6 month deployments. Require SecArmy to report, NLT than 90 days after enactment, on potential benefits and drawbacks of using 6-month deployments for all Army components.	Support House provision
Sec. 551 – UCMJ for members ordered overseas in inactive duty for training status. Require service secretaries to provide regulations NLT 3/1/07 extending UCMJ to cover reserve personnel ordered overseas for inactive duty for training.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
No similar provision	Sec. 552 - Cold War victory medal. Require SecDef to issue medal upon application to members who served honorably at least 180 days from 9/2/45 through 12/26/91.	Support House provision
Sec. 589 - Report on Expanding Purple Heart Criteria. President to review circumstances establishing Purple Heart eligibility for former POWs dying in or due to captivity and report to Congress by 3/1/07 on modifying award criteria.	Sec. 553 – Posthumous award of Purple Heart. Require SecDef to award Purple Heart to members who die while in captivity or die due to injury or illness incurred while in captivity to next-of-kin. Next of kin must apply for award for deaths prior to enactment.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 555 – Report on process for awarding decorations. SecDef to report within 90 days on the process and consistency of procedures and timeliness for awarding decorations to active and re-serve members.	Support House provision
Sec. 587 –Mortuary Affairs Review. SecDef to report to Congress after comprehensive review, including methods at forward locations and assistance to survivors.	Sec. 563 – Transportation of remains. Require expanded transportation and escort/honors considerations for members who die in a combat theater.	Support both House and Senate provisions

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
No similar provision	Sec. 564 – Display of funds for POW/MIA activities. Require written justification in budget for past and future years' funding for certain POW/MIA programs and activities.	Support House provision
Sec. 566 – Enlisted participation at Naval Post Graduate School. Authorize participation in certificate programs required by duties. Those with BA/BS degrees can receive space-available instruction toward master's in certain fields.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 571 – Assistance to local schools. Impact Aid: Provide \$30M to schools comprised of at least 20% military dependents. Provide \$10M for schools that experience significant negative or positive shifts in military dependent attendance due to force structure changes. Transition from Military to Civilian Schools: SecDef and SecEduc to work to ease transition of military dependents from military to civilian schools. Authority to expire 9/30/2011.	Sec. 571 – Continuation of assistance to local schools. - Similar provision, except authorize \$50M and \$15M, respectively.	Support House provision on Impact Aid funding levels. The Coalition agrees with the Senate that more effective partnerships are needed to ensure stateside schools have the resources needed to provide a quality education to the large numbers of military children who will arrive as a result of Global Rebasing.
Sec. 572 – Impact aid for children with severe disabilities. Authorize \$5M aid for elementary and secondary schools with severely disabled children of military members.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 573 – Report on enrollment in schools due to BRAC. SecDef to report NLT 1/1/07 on plan to provide assistance to local education agencies that may experience growth or decline due to 2005 BRAC round or other force structure changes.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 574 – Early childhood education pilot program. Authorize \$1.5M and require SecDef to create a 3-year pilot program NLT 10/1/07 to enhance educational tools and support for parents of dependent, pre-school-aged children affected by deployments and relocation of military units.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
No similar provision	Sec. 575-577 – Postal benefit for combat zones and hospitalized members. Authorize free postage for parcels up to 15 lbs for members in Iraq/Afghanistan or hospitalized do to OEF/OIF-incurred illness/injury. Program expires 1 year from date SecDef publishes regulations.	Support House provision – postal benefits would help boost morale and recognize the importance of providing emotional support to our fighting men and women. It would also help defray a portion of the expense families incur in mailing letters and “care” packages overseas.
Sec. 641 – Reduction of contribution to Military Retirement Fund and TFL Trust Fund. Similar MRF provision. Also, exclude cadets and midshipmen from accrual deposits to TFL trust fund.	Sec. 581 - Reduction of contribution to Military Retirement Fund. Allow DoD to contribute accrual funds to MRF at part-time rate for reserve component members vs. full time rate now employed.	Support Senate provision
No similar provision	Sec. 587 – Physical Evaluation Board reform. Require SecDef to establish regulations regarding timeliness, consistency and explanations provided for PEB decisions.	Support House provision
Sec. 588 – Electronic Copy of Military Records upon Discharge. SecDef to report to Congress within 120 days of enactment on feasibility of providing separating members electronic copy of all service and medical records.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
No similar provision	Sec. 588 – Dept. of Labor Transitional Assistance Program. Require participation by eligible servicemembers in the transitional assistance program offered by DoL.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 590 – Military Chaplains. Establish that Chaplains in each of the services have the prerogative to pray in the religion they choose.	No TMC position on the language of this provision. However, we recommend referral back to the DoD for analysis, report, and legislative review before any action toward enactment.
Sec. 591 – SSANs on Military ID Cards. SecDef to report within 180 days of enactment on feasibility of removing SSAN from ID cards.	Social Security numbers on military ID cards (p-316). SecDef to report on feasibility of developing process by which a servicemember could request that his/her SS# be removed from the military ID card NLT 3/31/07.	Support Senate provision. House provision only supports reporting requirement where Senate provision makes it law.
Sec. 601 – Increase in Basic Pay. Similar provisions, except increases pay by 2.2% eff. 1/1/07. Extends pay table to 40 years, with longevity increases at years 30, 34 and 38 for senior enlisted, warrant and commissioned officers.	Sec. 601 – Increase in Basic Pay. Increases basic pay for members by 2.7%, effective 1/1/07 Sec. 602 – Targeted pay raises. Targets mid-grade and senior noncommissioned officers and warrants for pay raises effective 4/1/07.	Support House provisions

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 605 – Additional Basic Allowance for Housing for reserve or retired members on active duty. Similar provision. Eff. 10/1/06.</p>	<p>Sec. 604 – Additional Basic Allowance for Housing for reserve or retired members on active duty. Authorize additional BAH for certain reserve or retired members without dependents who are mobilized in support of a contingency operation and serving in a location that is not their permanent residence.</p>	<p>Support Senate provision, which would establish 10/01/06 start date, since the NDAA rarely is enacted before the start of the fiscal year.</p>
<p>Sec. 606 – Extension of temporary housing allowance to certain servicemembers. Similar provision. Eff. 10/1/06.</p>	<p>Sec. 605 – Extension of temporary housing allowance to certain servicemembers. Allow active duty spouses of members who die on active duty to continue to receive the BAH due the deceased member for 1 year.</p>	<p>Support Senate provision, to ensure 10/01/06 start date.</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 607 – Full payment of SGLI premiums. Require services to pay premiums for full \$400K SGLI coverage for members serving in OEF and OIF.</p>	<p>Support House provision</p>
<p>Sec. 612-614 – Extensions of bonuses and special pay authorities. Similar provision but includes authority to pay service transfer incentive until 12/31/09.</p>	<p>Sec. 612-614 – Extensions of bonuses and special pay authorities. Extend special pay for nuclear officers, aviators and health care officials, accession bonuses for new officers in critical skills and bonuses for enlistment/ reenlistment until 12/31/07.</p>	<p>Support Senate provisions</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 620. Members eligible for referral bonus. Clarify that military retirees, to include “gray area”, are eligible to be paid the referral bonus.</p>	<p>Support House provision to help stimulate recruiting.</p>
<p>Sec. 618 – Force Shaping Authorities. Similar voluntary separation provision, except extend authority until 12/31/12 and increase maximum amount to four times the full amount of separation pay for a member of the same grade and YOS who is involuntarily separated. Selective early retirement: Authorize selective early retirement or discharge of up to 30% of officers in each eligible grade (vs. 30% of competitive category) during period from 10/1/06 to 12/31/2012.</p>	<p>Sec. 622 – Voluntary separation authority. Remove prohibition set in FY06 NDAA against participation of enlisted personnel and officers with 12-20 years of service. Extend temporary authority for voluntary separations by one year to 12/31/09.</p>	<p>TMC supports the Senate voluntary separation provision to allow more appropriate compensation for long-serving personnel who leave voluntarily, but is concerned that this authority could be used to coerce “voluntary” separations among members with 15+ years of service (i.e., by threatening involuntary separation as alternative). TMC believes strongly that any such coercion would be unfair and inappropriate in the absence of the far fairer early retirement benefits authorized during the 1990s drawdown.</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 619 – Authority to extend pilot program for Thrift Savings Plans. Extend pilot program to match TSP contributions of initial enlistees until 12/31/08. Extend due date for report on pilot program to 2/1/08.	No similar provision	TMC can support this initiative, but would strongly oppose any military retirement reduction to fund TSP matching.
Sec. 620 – Accession Bonus for Officers after Completing Officer Candidate School. Up to \$8K for members who enlist for purposes of completing OCS. Covers agreements executed 10/1/06 to 12/31/07. Retroactive authority to cover agreements 4/1/05 to 4/6/06.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 621 – Army Enlistment Referral Bonus. Expand eligibility for bonus to include Army civilian employees and retired Army personnel.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
No similar provision	Sec. 623 – Authority and incentives to return to active duty. Authorize SecDef to pay a bonus up to \$50K to retired, former and reserve members to return to active duty in certain critical skill areas until 12/31/10.	Support House provision
Sec. 631 – Full replacement value for damaged personal property during PCS. Require SecDef, NLT 3/1/08, to update PCS transportation contracts to require carrier to pay full replacement value for military members' and civilian employees' goods damaged/lost during a move at government's expense. Require GAO reports on 12/1/06 and 6/1/07 on the "Families First" program.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision. DoD failure to implement this long-ago-enacted authority is inexplicable, inappropriate, and insensitive to military families' needs and financial well-being.
No similar provision	Sec. 631 – Payment for delivery and storage of a motor vehicle. Authorize reimbursement for delivery and storage of member's vehicle in a location of the member's choosing, up to cost of government-selected storage facility.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 632 – Additional vehicle for PCS. Allow member's family member to drive 2 vehicles to ship for nonforeign duty stations outside continental US including AK, HI, Puerto Rico, Guam and other territories.	Support House provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
	Sec. 633 – Travel/Transportation of servicemembers incident to illness/injury. Correct loophole in current law that excludes funded travel when spouse/parent of wounded member is also a servicemember.	Support House provision
Sec. 648 – Renaming Of Death Gratuity. Rename as “Fallen Hero Compensation”	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 650 – General/Flag Officer Retired Pay. Base retired pay of G/FOs on basic pay rate independent of Executive Level pay cap, for retirements on or after 10/1/06. No similar provision	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
No similar provision	Sec. 651 - Price surcharges on tobacco and certain other merchandise in commissaries. For merchandise procured from a military exchange for sale in commissary, revenue above the cost of products shall be allocated as if the revenue were a uniform sales price surcharge.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 652 – Commissary/MWR protection. Limit ability of private entities to lease government property if their services would compete with or undermine services of commissaries/MWR facilities.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 653 – NAF funds for Commissaries/MWR. Authorize use of nonappropriated funds to replace or augment appropriated funds for construction of exchanges, lodging, MWR, community facilities.	Oppose House provision. TMC does not support substituting NAF for appropriated funds, which effectively reduces funds to support MWR activities for troops. If additional funds are needed for emergency/disaster situations, supplemental funding is appropriate, not transfer from NAF.
Sec. 661 – Account audit of Army hospitalized wounded. Require pay audit for Army members hospitalized from combat ops 5/5/05 to 4/30/06. Require SecDef to create an assistance center to help members or NOK to resolve problems.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 667 – Joint Family Support Assistance Program. SecDef shall carry out program at at least 6 sites, including 3 remote from military installations. Report due to congress 270 days after initiation. \$5M authorized for program.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 665 – Enhanced Authority To Waive Recoupment of Overpayments. Raise waiver amount limit to \$10K (vs. \$5K) and time period to 5 years (vs. 3).</p> <p>Sec. 663 –Enhancement Of Debt Remission Authority. Expands authority to include Guard, Reserve, retired and former members during periods prescribed by SecDef. Makes authority permanent by deleting expiration date. SecDef to prescribe regulations by 3/1/07.</p>	<p>Sec. 663 – Indebtedness incurred on active duty. Extend authority of service secretaries to cancel indebtedness incurred on active duty to 12/31/09. Also, extends time period from 1 to 5 years for which secretary may use this authority for separated members.</p>	<p>Support broader Senate provisions</p>
<p>Sec. 664 – Exception For Notice To Consumer Reporting Agencies Pending Debt Decision. Prohibit disclosure to agencies pending final decision on debt waiver, remission or cancellation, eff. 3/1/07. SecDef to report to Congress by 3/1/07 on number of members reported to agencies, circumstances of waivers, cost of collection services, evaluation of effectiveness in reducing debts and recommendations for action.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 664 – Limitation on recovery of pay for overpayment purposes. No more than 20% of a servicemember's pay may be garnished during a single pay period for recoupment of overpayments paid through no fault of the member. Provide a 90-day grace period before recovery can begin for members who are wounded, injured or ill as a result of combat or while in a combat zone.</p>	<p>Support House provision</p>
<p>Sec. 666 Terms of Consumer Credit for Servicemembers or Dependents. Strengthen restrictions on usurious lenders. Require new written agreement with clear description and annual percentage rate for each renewal. Caps annual rate at 36%. Up to one year in prison for violation.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 1104 Use Of Leave By Caregivers For Military Family Members. Allow federal civilians to use sick leave to care for qualifying family members of deployed members; SecLabor to develop voluntary program for private sector.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 1407 – Additional funds for military personnel. Authorizes additional \$7.3B. No similar provision	Sec. 1510 - Additional funds for military personnel. Authorize an additional \$9.36B.	Support House provision
Sec. 2814 –US Southern Command Family Housing. Authorize occupant to remain in leased housing while member assigned to remote location.	Sec. 2809 - Repeal of Temporary Minor Military Construction Program. Repeal FY06 NDAA authority for DoD to establish a temporary program to use minor military construction money to construct child development centers at locations affected by deployment, re basing, etc. No similar provision	Oppose House provision. This authority is still needed for ongoing/expected BRAC/rebasing localities. Support Senate provision
Sec. 315 Expansion of JROTC Program. Secretaries shall seek to increase program by an additional 15 Army units, 15 USMC, 10 USN and 10 USAF.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Guard and Reserve Provisions

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 412 – End strength for reserves on active duty in support of reserves. Supports President's budget.	Sec. 412 – End strength for reserves on active duty in support of reserves. Similar, but increases Guard by 724, Air Guard by 85.	Support House provision
Sec. 413 – End strength for dual status technicians. Supports President's budget.	Sec. 413 – End strength for dual status technicians. Supports president's budget request except increases Guard by 1,565.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 512 – Federal retirement credit for Guard members. Authorize retirement credit for Guard members called up for state duty after 9/11 in the NJ counties of Bergen, Hudson, Union and Middlesex.	Support House provision
No similar provision	Sec. 513 – Report on private sector promotions. SecDef to report NLT 3/1/07 on post-mobilization effects on members of the reserve, to include promotions and voluntary resignations due to intolerable conditions.	Support House provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
No similar provision.	Sec. 543 – Governor’s title 32 authority. Authorize governors to order Guard members to duty under Title 32 to support operations at the request of the president or SecDef, or to support Army or USAF training missions.	Support House provision
No similar provision.	Sec. 545 – Civil support team operations. Expand emergencies reserve civil support teams can respond to (release of nuclear, biological, radiological or toxic materials).	Support House provision
No similar provision.	Sec. 592 – Empowerment Task Force. SecDef to create a task force to address economic concerns of reserve component members. Expires 9/30/09.	Support House provision
Sec. 533 – Commission on the Guard and Reserve. Extend the commission by 6 months and grant commission chairman same authority to waive limits on annuitant eligibility for pay as would be available to the Director, OMB.	Sec. 594 – Commission on the Guard and Reserve. Extend commission by 6 mos with report to Congress by 3/1/07 on HR 5200 (JCS participation), whether the Chief of the NGB should hold grade of general, and DoD’s process to fund and equip the Guard.	Support Senate provision
Sec. 534 – Reintegration pilot program. SecArmy to create a voluntary pilot program to help Guard members reintegrate into civilian life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial and 30-day reintegration training with families and communities; • 60-day training to assist in matters relating to combat stress (chemical dependency, anger management, gambling abuse) • 90-day mental and physical evaluation; • Development and distribution of education materials for reintegration. Sec. Army to report on finding NLT 1 year after implementation of the program.	No similar provision.	Support Senate provision
Sec. 570A – Post-Service Reserve MGIB Eligibility. Authorize Selected Reserve members to use deployment-related education benefits for up to 10 years after leaving Selected Reserve. Effective date retroactive to 10/28/04.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 603 – Compensation for correspondence courses. Prohibition on compensation for work or study in a correspondence course is effective 9/7/62. It includes Guard while not in federal service.	Sec. 606 – Compensation for correspondence courses. Similar provision.	Oppose both provisions. Chairman McHugh has stated that Sec. 606 was included in the House bill in error. TMC agrees with Chairman McHugh that it would interfere inappropriately with ongoing litigation.
No similar provision.	Sec. 624 – Correction of inequity for eligibility of assignment incentive pay. SecArmy to report, NLT 30 days after enactment, on number of Army personnel affected by the assignment incentive pay disparity and methods and actions to correct it.	Support House provision
Sec. 653 – Guard-Reserve retirement age. Reduce 3 months below age 60 for each 90 days mobilized since 9/11/01. Retirement age may not be reduced below age 50. Initial health benefits eligibility in retirement status remains at age 60. Effective date: 9/11/01 but applies only to members retiring on or after date of enactment.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 662. Troops to nurse teachers pilot program. SecDef, in coordination with SecHHS and SecEd, to conduct pilot program to help Reserve component, retired or separated nurses become employed as nurse educators at schools of nursing and provide scholarships/transition stipends for continuing service in SelRes or other public service.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 682 – Transition assistance for returning Guard/Reserve members. SecDef to appoint working group to identify/assess needs of returning G-R members for transition to civilian employment. Working group report due to SecDef and Congress within one year, including recommendations on needs for employers, employment assistance organizations and others on needs of members and families and how to improve public/private sector collaboration.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 683. Office for employers and employment assistance organizations. SecDef to establish DoD office to assist employers of G-R members and employment assistance organizations with emphasis on education on mental health issues; annual report to SecDef and Congress.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 684. DoD Task Force on Mental Health. Must report on mental health needs of deployed Guard/Reserve members upon their return.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 685- Community-based assistance grants for returning G-R members and families. SecDef may award grants for demonstration projects to improve family reuniting, education on physical/mental health issues and referral mechanisms. Annual report due to Congress.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 924 – Report on incorporation of reserve components in special forces. SecDef to report to congress within 6 months of enactment on proper role of Reserve components in special forces.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 932 – Expanded Authority of Chief of the NGB and Expanded Functions of the NGB. Chief, NGB is 4-star advisor to SecDef and CJCS; NGB is joint activity of DoD vs Army and AF. Chief, NGB reports to Hill on Guard requirements. NGB to identify gaps between state/federal capabilities, validate state needs, develop doctrine and training for assistance to civil authorities.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 933 – Deputy Commander, US Northern Command. Specify that Deputy Commander shall be a 3-star Guard officer.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Retired Affairs Issues

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
No similar provision	Sec. 561 – Removal from TDRL list. Requires services to retain members on TDRL list for the maximum time allowed under law unless that condition is permanent and stable.	Support House provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 582 – Permanent ID cards for permanently disabled dependents. Require issue of permanent ID cards to disabled dependents of military retirees when permanent disability is medically validated.	No similar provision, but HASC report language (p.315) expresses concern and directs SecDef report to Congress on the issue by 3/31/07.	Support Senate provision to relieve renewal worries over lapse of dependent TRICARE eligibility for aging members with disabled dependents. Report would delay the fix.
No similar provision	Sec. 641 – SBP insurable interest coverage. Allow a retiree to who has an insurable interest beneficiary to elect another insurable interest beneficiary if the first beneficiary dies.	Support House provision
Sec. 643 – Paid-Up Survivor Benefit Plan Coverage. Implement paid-up SBP coverage for members who have paid SBP premiums for at least 30 years and have attained age 70, effective Oct. 1, 2006.	No similar provision	Strongly support Senate provision. “Greatest Generation” retirees already have paid 25% more SBP premiums than post-1978 retirees ever will. They shouldn’t have to wait two more years for relief already long overdue.
Sec. 644 – Direct payment of divisible retired pay. Repeal minimum requirement of 10-year marriage overlap for DFAS to send retired pay directly to a former spouse. Sec. 645 – COLA authority for retired pay treated as divisible property. Authorize payment of COLAs in connection with awards of retired pay stated in dollar amounts.	No similar provision	TMC has supported the principle entailed in Sec. 644, but as part of a broader package of much-needed reforms to the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA). TMC is dismayed that the Senate included only these few initiatives, which are mainly for DFAS’ administrative convenience, while ignoring other initiatives unanimously endorsed by OSD and the Coalition that are essential to ease gross inequities for active duty and retired members. One item emphasized in the June 14 Statement of Administration Policy is the need to prohibit awarding retired pay division before the member actually retires. TMC strongly urges the conferees to address this highly inequitable oversight.
Sec. 646 – Notice to members of court orders on payment of retired pay. Allow members to waive notice of an application for payment of retired pay and eliminate the requirement that a copy of the court order be sent to all members in every case. Eff. 90 days after enactment for court proceedings held on or after that date.	No similar provision	Strongly support Senate provision
Sec. 649 – Concurrent Receipt for Unemployables. Accelerates effective date to 31 Dec 2004 (vs. Oct 1, 2009).	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 662 – Improvement of Management of Armed Forces Retirement Home. Redesignates Chief Operating Officer as Chief Executive Officer. Also clarifies membership on local Board of Trustees for active duty O-7.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Survivor Issues		TMC Position
Senate (S. 2766) Sec. 642 – Elimination of DIC/SBP Offset. End deduction of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, eff. on the later of 10/1/06 or enactment.	House (H.R. 5122) No similar provision	Strongly support Senate provision. More than 60% of House members have cosponsored other bills including similar language. Most affected survivors have not benefited from recent improvements for post-9/11 widows.
Sec. 652 – Eligibility to transfer SBP to children of members who die in service. Authorizes option transfer for deaths on or after October 7, 2001 (vs. current November 23, 2003).	Sec. 645 – Eligibility of certain additional dependent children for SBP. Express a Sense of Congress that eligibility for a surviving child annuity under SBP be extended to cover children of members dying after 10/7/01 (vs current date of 11/23/03).	Support Senate provision. Congress should legislate this change instead of merely expressing support for it.

Health Care Provisions		TMC Position
Senate (S. 2766) No similar provision	House (H.R. 5122) Sec. 521 – Health professions scholarship. Authorize SecArmy to change agreements for ROTC cadet who participates in the Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship to receive assistance under the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). No similar provision	Support House provision
Sec. 561 – Medical school appointments. Authorize service secretaries to appoint 25 commissioned officers per year to medical school in exchange for 2 years of active duty service for each year of medical training.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 563 – Education reimbursement for certain medical professionals. Authorize service secretaries to increase, from \$22K to \$60K, the amount to repay loans for fully qualified health care professionals in shortage specialties.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 564 – Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program. Increase stipend amount from \$579 per month to up to \$30K per year. Increases annual grant from \$15K to \$45K.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 565 – Report on Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program. SecDef to report NLT 3/1/07 on success in recruiting under the HPSFAP.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 641 - Modification of DoD contributions to Military Retirement Fund and to the Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund. Exclude cadets and midshipmen from the end strength figures on which accrual payments to the Medicare-Eligible Health Retiree Care Fund are based.</p>	<p>Sec. 589 - Revision in contributions to Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund. Clarify Congressional intent and direct that no annual accrual payment required by Chapter 56 should be charged, credited, or classified in any budget formulation, budget functional classification or scoring of mandatory or discretionary spending against the Department of Defense.</p>	<p>Support both provisions, with special emphasis on the importance of the House provision. Congress' clear intention is that TRICARE For Life costs are not to come at the expense of other DoD programs, but DoD leaders assert that OMB will not increase the DoD topline to pay the TFL trust fund deposit. That is clearly contrary to the will of Congress and fails to assume responsibility for budgeting the amounts necessary to cover non-health program needs.</p>
<p>Sec. 586 – Military Severely Injured Center. Require SecDef to create a Military Severely Injured Center and database to provide case management and support programs for severely injured members.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 604 – Prohibition of requiring injured members to pay for meals at MTFs. Extend for one year the prohibition of requiring payment for MTF meals by a servicemember getting continuous care, including outpatient care, for an injury or illness incurred in OIF/OEF.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 621 – Pilot program for recruitment bonus for health specialties. Authorize 2 year pilot program to offer recruiting incentives to up to five medical specialties.</p>	<p>Support House provision</p>
<p>Sec. 616 – Increase in accession bonus for certain health care officials. Increase, from \$30K to \$200K, the accession bonus for dental officers and authorize a new \$400K accession bonus for medical officers and dental specialists in critically short wartime specialties. Must remain on active duty for 4 consecutive years to be eligible.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 686 – Traumatic brain injury study. SecDef and SecVA shall conduct 15-year longitudinal study on effects of traumatic brain injury in OEF/OIF. Reports to Congress due in third, seventh, eleventh, and fifteenth years.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 687 – Training for family caregivers regarding brain trauma. SecDef and SecVA shall establish panel to develop curricula to train family caregivers for member who incurred brain trauma in OEF/OIF.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 703 - Anesthesia and other costs for dental care for children and certain other patients. Provide TRICARE coverage for anesthesia services and institutional costs for dental treatment for children under the age of 6.</p>	<p>Sec. 702 - Anesthesia and other costs for dental care for children and certain other patients. Provide TRICARE coverage for anesthesia services and institutional costs for dental treatment for beneficiaries with developmental, mental or physical disabilities and children under the age of 5.</p>	<p>Support House provision, but include children under the age of 6, as proposed by Senate.</p>
<p>Sec. 705 - Prohibition on increases in certain health care costs for members of the uniformed services. Prohibit DoD from increasing TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for FY2007 (9/30/07). Sec. 706 – Limitation on fees for TRICARE Reserve Select. Limits increases in TRS premiums for FY2007 to 2.2%.</p>	<p>Sec. 704 - Prohibition on increases in certain health care costs for members of the uniformed services - Prohibit DoD from increasing the premium, deductible and copayment for TRICARE Prime or the TRICARE Standard copay for inpatient care until 12/31/07, and premiums for Ready Reserve members until 10/1/07.</p>	<p>Strongly support House provision, since the NDAA is rarely enacted before Oct. 1. DoD already has raised the Standard inpatient deductible to \$535 per day -- exceeding most commercial insurance inpatient deductibles -- and raised TRS premiums by 8.5% in 2006.</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 707 – Reimbursement of certain travel expenses of TFL beneficiaries. Allow TFL beneficiaries who receive MTF care prior to age 65 may be reimbursed for travel expenses associated with limited follow up care at the same facility. Applies to those attaining age 65 after enactment.</p>	<p>Support House provision</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 708 - Inflation adjustment of differential payments to children's hospitals participating in TRICARE program. Require SecDef to establish an annual inflationary adjustment for the TRICARE children's hospital differential payment rate beginning in FY2007.</p>	<p>Support House provision</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 707. Expansion of eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select. Authorize an additional category of eligibles: members employed by a business with 20 or fewer employees. Premium for this group to be set at 75% of government cost.</p> <p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 709 - Expansion of eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select. Provide Standard coverage for all members of the SELRES and dependents at a premium that is 28% of SecDef-determined cost. FEHBP-eligibles excluded. Repeal three tiered cost share. Eff. 10/1/07.</p> <p>Sec. 711 – DoD task force on future of military health care. SecDef to establish task force w/in 90 days after enactment to assess future and recommend ways to sustain system over long term. Task force shall include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least one member from USA, USN, USAF; • equal numbers from DoD and non-DoD; • at least one from the Institute of Medicine; • at least one Defense Business Board; and • at least one MSO/VSO representative who has experience in health care. <p>Report due 12 months after appointment. SecDef to develop plan based on task force recommendations NLT 6 mos after receipt.</p>	<p>Strongly support House provision. Significantly higher fees for current second- and third-tier eligibles effectively prices thousands of beneficiaries out of health coverage.</p> <p>Strongly support House provision. This is the only way beneficiary associations can be guaranteed a formal participation role in this crucial assessment.</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 712 - Chiropractic services. SecDef to report by 3/31/07 on plan to provide chiropractic care to active duty family members, Reserve members and families, and retirees and families. Study cost, feasibility, benefit and savings.</p>	<p>Support House provision</p>
<p>Sec. 744 – Comptroller General report on Defense Health Program. Similar, but also include audit of TRICARE Reserve Select cost and rationale for 8.5% Jan 05 increase.</p> <p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 713 - Comptroller General report on Defense Health Program. Require report NLT 6/1/07 on DoD cost savings projections included in the FY07 budget for the DHP.</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Sec. 715 - Study on allowing dependents of activated members of the reserve components to retain civilian health care. SecDef to study allowing families of mobilized reservists to continue civilian health coverage. Assess number who would benefit, feasibility of reimbursement, and recommended reimbursement. SecDef to report 180 days after enactment.</p>	<p>Support House provision. TMC believes Guard/Reserve members need continuity of care above all, and that many would accept a partial subsidy to retain their civilian coverage that would cost DoD less than the cost of providing TRICARE.</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 721 – Federal pricing in TRICARE Retail Pharmacy. Retail pharmacy network is covered by the federal pricing limits applicable to covered drugs under section 8126 of title 38, USC.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 723 – Enrollment in TRICARE Program. Require SecDef to establish TRICARE Standard enrollment system. Beneficiary to pay a one time fee (\$25/\$40 single/family).</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>TMC strongly objects to charging any enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard. An enrollment fee should be charged only when the patient is provided extra service, but Standard doesn't even guarantee provider access. Enrollment is solely for the convenience of DoD. Impact on families would be to deny claims for those who don't get the word on the requirement to enroll. Resultant worry and anger would give patients/providers one more reason to feel that TRICARE is more concerned about its administrative convenience than patient/doctor needs.</p>
<p>Sec. 724 – Incentive payments in medically underserved areas. Require additional 5% incentive payments to providers in areas designated by the SecHHS as a primary or specialist care scarcity county, and 10% extra in designated health professional shortage areas.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision to encourage participation of additional providers.</p>
<p>Sec. 725 – Standardization of claims processing under TRICARE and Medicare. By 10/1/07, TRICARE must use same identification of providers and documentation of medical necessity as Medicare for claims. Allow SecDef to collect amount owed by third parties immediately upon presentation of claims. SecDef must submit annual report to Congress on any differences in TRICARE/Medicare claims processing requirements, with business case justification.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Strongly support Senate provision. Doctors and TRICARE contractors report that TRICARE-unique administrative requirements cause excessive costs and deter participation of many providers.</p>
<p>Sec. 726 – Civilian contractor support of MTFs. Each TRO director to develop plan for MTF support by civilian contract providers, ensuring consistent provider quality in accord with accepted accreditation standards.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 727 – Access standards for injured servicemembers. SecDef must prescribe access standards for health care for injured and wounded servicemembers. If standards for care cannot be met, services will be obtained from civilian providers. Service secretaries are required to maintain a system to track success of meeting access standards.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 728 – Disease and chronic pain management. Require SecDef to establish a program on disease and chronic pain for at least: diabetes, cancer, heart disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, depression and anxiety.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 729 – Post-deployment health assessments. Require SecDef to prescribe requirements for post-deployment health and mental health assessments for each member returning from a contingency, prescribe criteria to determine whether to refer for further mental health evaluation, and require tracking and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure needed referrals are accomplished.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 730 – Mental Health Self-Assessment Program (MHSAP). SecDef to expand MHSAP for continuous availability/enhanced detection, with programs to address needs of children of deployed members, and outreach to active duty, Guard, and Reserve members and families. Report to Congress within 1 year of enactment.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 731 – Authority to extend TRICARE contracts. SecDef may extend for two consecutive one-year periods for program continuity. SecDef to report to Congress within 180 days of enactment on future contract mechanisms, including effects of 5-year contract, with 5-year extension for excellent performance.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
<p>Sec. 733 – Enhanced Mental Health Screening/Services. Prescribe requirements for pre-deployment assessments, referral requirement. SecDef to prescribe minimum health standards for deployment, conditions that preclude deployment, PTSD guidelines, monitoring of individuals with known problems. Report to Congress within 6 mos of enactment.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 734 – Education and Supervision of Special Education Services Personnel. Specify added criteria regarding qualifications and sufficient availability of Applied Behavioral Analysis personnel to meet patient needs.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>
<p>Sec. 702 – Mail-order pharmacy copays and mandatory refills. Require all refills of maintenance medications be obtained through TMOP unless waived by SecDef based on clinical need. Bar DoD from requiring TMOP copayment for refills of generic and brand name medications determined by a physician to be medically necessary. Sec. 707 – Cap on retail Rx copays. Retail pharmacy copays for formulary drugs may not exceed \$3 (generic) and \$9 (brand) for FY07.</p>	<p>Sec. 731 - TRICARE pharmacy cost-share requirements. Require SecDef to decrease cost for the Mail Order Pharmacy program to \$0. Also, limits the copays for drugs through the retail pharmacy to \$6 for generic drugs, \$16 for formulary drugs and \$22 for non-formulary drugs until 12/31/07.</p>	<p>TMC strongly supports Senate provisions eliminating copays for generic and medically necessary brand name drugs in the mail-order pharmacy and barring any retail pharmacy copay increase for FY07, consistent with prohibitions of other fee increases.</p> <p>TMC opposes mandatory mail-order refills for maintenance drugs. There are a variety of situations in which members may need to use local pharmacies and do not have time to obtain waivers (lost medications, doctor-directed dosage changes, etc.). TMC does not believe the Senate initiative is flexible enough to accommodate legitimate beneficiary needs.</p>
<p>Sec. 741 – Pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of PTSD. Authorize \$10M for FY07 for three pilot projects: one at a large mobilization and demobilization site; one at a National Guard or Reserve location more than 40 miles from a military installation; and one to evaluate an internet based tools to aid military and civilian health professionals regarding PTSD.</p>	<p>No similar provision</p>	<p>Support Senate provision</p>

Senate and House Provisions for the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 742 – Annual reports on medical malpractice suits. Require services to report to SecDef on non-active duty beneficiary allegations of medical malpractice in MTFs involving judgments of \$1M+. Also report any cases of death/serious injury of military member from malpractice. SecDef annual report to Congress.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 743 – GAO study of DoD pharmacy benefits system. Study cost and structure of DoD pharmacy program, and composition and function of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and Beneficiary Advisory Panel. Report required NLT 9 months after enactment.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 745 – Review of DoD medical quality improvement program. SecDef to conduct independent review of scope and performance of quality improvement program, and compare with quality improvement programs used by other public and private health care systems.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 761 – Conversion of medical and dental positions to civilians. Extends through FY07 the requirement for SecDef to certify that converting military positions to civilian/contractor positions won't increase cost/erode quality of care. Require certification with FY2008 budget.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision
Sec. 923 – Extension of joint incentives for sharing health resources. Extends, until 9/30/10, the joint incentives program between the VA/DoD to share health resources.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision

Veterans And Other Issues

Senate (S. 2766)	House (H.R. 5122)	TMC Position
Sec. 587 – Funeral Ceremonies for Veterans. Allow Service Secretaries to reimburse VSO members providing funeral honors when no military members are present.	No similar provision	Support Senate provision. TMC urges conferees to include language encouraging participation of active duty members whenever possible.