



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

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Federal Docket Management System Office
1160 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1160

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The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans organizations representing more than 5.5 million members plus their family members and survivors, would like to draw to your attention our concerns over the recently released TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) Interim final rule. The rule was submitted by the Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense (DoD) with the following Regulatory Information Number, 0720-AB15.

A specific concern of TMC's is found in Paragraph II. B., which states that "TRICARE Reserve Select monthly premium rates are established and updated annually, on a calendar year basis, to maintain an appropriate relationship with the annual changes in Blue Cross and Blue Shield premiums, or by other adjustment methodology determined to be appropriate by the ASD(HA)"

TMC believes that TRS should be considered as a partial offset to the extraordinarily increased demands and sacrifices being demanded of Reserve component members and their families. In this regard, these members and families are being required to pay very large premiums in terms of in-kind service and sacrifice.

Blue Cross Blue Shield premiums have seen double digit increases over the past few years. Before fully implementing the original TRS program, DoD raised the monthly premiums by 8.5% while Reserve compensation only increased by approximately 3%.

In view of the very large in-kind premiums already being demanded of these members, TMC believes strongly that the percentage increase in TRS premiums in any year should not exceed the percentage increase in military basic pay.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our views for consideration.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(signatures enclosed)

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Air Force Association

Richard M. Dean
Air Force Sergeants Association

Patricia M. Humphrey
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