



THE MILITARY COALITION

April 29, 2016

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

The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, writes to express concern about the latest DoD proposals for law changes regarding the defense commissary program.

TMC offered its collective testimony on uniformed service personnel benefits and programs in March 2016, to both the HASC and the SASC. Additionally, two TMC member organizations individually expressed their concerns (and the concerns of the overwhelming majority of TMC's members) with regard to commissaries at the HASC Military-Personnel Subcommittee hearing held January 13, 2016.

TMC is now also concerned with DoD's new requests for changes to longstanding laws governing pricing of items sold in commissaries; specifically with their recommended introduction of variable pricing models and private label products into the system. Absent the report already mandated in law, which was due March 1, 2016, we hoped Congress would resist any changes to variable pricing models that reach beyond the scope of originally allowed pilot tests. These pilots were intended as an opportunity to thoroughly test and evaluate what amounts to deconstruction of the commissary model and ensure against any adverse effects on beneficiaries. We ask that testing be done with the highest levels of integrity, prioritizing the value of the benefit to beneficiaries before savings to DoD.

The Military Coalition thanks you for your ongoing commitment to sustaining the value of the commissary and the total compensation package offered to the members of our nation's combined uniformed services. As always, we stand ready to discuss these and other issues with your staff at their convenience.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Air Force Women Officers Associated (AFWOA)
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals
Association of the US Army (AUSA)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service
CWOA, US Coast Guard
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association of the USA (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA
Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association
US Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)