



The Coalition to Save our Military Shopping Benefits

April 10, 2017

Honorable Mike Coffman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Personnel
House Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

Honorable Jackie Speier
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Personnel
House Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Coffman and Ranking Member Speier,

As the Coalition representing the millions of patrons and beneficiaries of exchange and commissary programs, we write in support of the Military Patron Protection Act advanced by Congressman Walter Jones. This important legislation would put in place needed protections to safeguard these valuable earned benefits for service members and their families.

There are a number of changes to these benefits that have been made and are being considered that have a profound effect on the well-being and interests of the millions of patrons of these programs. Military patrons have invested billions of dollars from their own pockets for financing exchange and commissary construction programs, along with hundreds of millions of dollars annually to support on-base morale, welfare and recreation programs.

The Military Patron Protection Act would provide patrons with transparency and a much needed voice in the sourcing and application of this funding, how these benefits are structured going forward that effect their investments, and how patron financial contributions to these programs are being allocated. This legislation also would provide needed visibility for impacts on associated small and disadvantaged businesses, and a wide range of benevolent causes that are enabled through patronage of these programs.

On behalf of the millions of service members, Guard and reserve, veterans, survivors, and military family members who rely on these critical benefits, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this legislation during your deliberations of the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
American Logistics Association (ALA)
American Military Partner Association (AMPA)
American Military Retirees Association (AMRA)
American Military Society (AMS)
American Retirees Association (ARA)
American Veterans (AMVETS)
Armed Forces Marketing Council (AFMC)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. (GSW)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
Military Partners and Families Coalition (MPFC)
National Industries for the Blind (NIB)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Society of Military Widows (SMW)
The Flag and General Officers Network (TFGON)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
United States Army Warrants Officers Association (USAWOA)

The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits – Over 2 Million Strong – is working to ensure service members (Active Duty, Veterans, National Guard and Reserve), their families and survivors have a voice in shaping policies that impact our nation's ability to sustain healthy and vibrant commissary and exchange systems, and to protect these critical earned benefits. Our Valued Associate members represent some of the largest, oldest, and most trusted military and veterans' service organizations in the country. To learn more, visit www.saveourbenefit.org and follow us on [Facebook](#).