

May 23rd, 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,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan advocacy group consisting of numerous military and veterans service organizations, writes 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,



Ted S. Painter
Co-Director
National Military & Veterans Alliance
National Legislative Director
American Military Retirees Association
508-335-3616
tedscottpainter@gmail.com



Aleks Morosky
Co-Director
National Military & Veterans Alliance
National Legislative Director
Military Order of the Purple Heart
703-642-5360 Ext: 117
aleksmorosky@purpleheart.org

National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Act

American Logistics Association
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
The Flag & General Officers Network
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
Vietnam Veterans of America