



THE MILITARY COALITION

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

June 7, 2017

The Honorable Walter Jones
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Representative Jones:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing 5.5 million current and former service members, their families and survivors, strongly supports the *Military Patron Protection Act*. This important piece of legislation would safeguard the commissary benefit relied on by service members and their families as well as survivors and retirees and institute important transparency measures. We thank you for introducing this legislation.

In recent months, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has taken steps to significantly alter its traditional business practices, including the introduction of private label products and variable pricing. While these reforms are intended to reduce the military resale system's need for appropriated funding, we are concerned about the long-term impact on the value of the commissary benefit.

The *Military Patron Protection Act* would create a Military Resale Patron Advisory Commission to help ensure the views of service members, veterans and their families are given full consideration. It would introduce transparency requirements to ensure effective Congressional oversight and allow patrons a voice in the operation of the resale system. We urge Congress to include these common-sense measures in this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Thank you for introducing this legislation that would help preserve a key benefit for service members, their families, survivors and retirees and enhance their quality of life.

Sincerely,
The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Denise Hollywood
Air Force Association

[Signature]
Air Force Sergeants Association

E. J. Sinclair
Army Aviation Association of America

[Signature]
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

Carl R. Hen
Association of the United States Army

Gary E. Hill
Association of the United States Navy

James T. Currie
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public Health Service, Inc

Carol Setteducato
CWOA, US Coast Guard

Thomas J. Free
Fleet Reserve Association

Harriet Boyden
Gold Star Wives of America

Norman Rosenbergs
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

[Signature]
Marine Corps Reserve Association

Dana T. Atkins
Military Officers Association of America

[Signature]
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Joyce Wessel Ragan
National Military Family Association

Michael P. Hyatt
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

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Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America

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Reserve Officers Association

Judy Patterson
Service Women's Action Network

Gregory B. Conway
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

Dorinda Lark Holleman
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

Bonnie Carroll
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Ruby Reil
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

Jack R. Stahl
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

[Signature]
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

Richard F. Weidman
Vietnam Veterans of America