



## **Inhofe and Mikulski praise passage of amendment protecting commissary benefits**

Press Release

“Today Congress stood in strong bipartisan support of protecting commissary benefits for our nation’s service members, their families and our veterans,” Inhofe said. “The support of more than 40 outside organizations made the passage of this amendment possible as they provided a face to the millions who depend on this benefit,” added Inhofe. “We took a step forward to protect America’s military families today,” Mikulski said. “I’m all for eliminating pentagon waste, but no money is wasted at a commissary. In fact, just the opposite happens. Commissaries feed our troops. They help military families stretch their budgets, and they provide jobs to military spouses, children old enough to work, and military retirees. And commissaries are the military’s most popular earned benefit.”

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## **Coalition sends letter to Senate Military Family Caucus Members urging support for critical amendments**

Save Our Benefit

As a member of the Senate Military Family Caucus, we are counting on your leadership to help roll back multiple attacks on the commissary benefit proposed by the Pentagon and passed by the Senate Armed Services Committee in the Committee’s version of the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act. We strongly urge your support of: the Inhofe-Mikulski amendment (#1728), requiring a report assessing the viability of privatizing the commissary system before implementing any changes; the Mikulski amendment (#2009), restoring the \$322 million in cuts from the commissary program; and the Mikulski amendment (#1886), striking language allowing the Secretary of Defense to raise commissary prices at his discretion.

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## **TMC sends letter to every member of the Senate, urging rejection of several harmful provisions in the Defense Bill**

The Military Coalition

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniform services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, appreciates the hard work that went into S. 1376, the Senate Armed Services Committee mark-up of the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. However, we respectfully request that you reject several harmful provisions in the proposed legislation that we find troubling. Some proposals in the mark continue to erode the pay and benefits needed to sustain the all-volunteer force (AVF) and their families: specifically, the annual pay raise, basic allowance for housing, TRICARE pharmacy fees, and the commissary subsidy cut...Your colleagues in the House have already rejected these proposals and we ask you to do the same.

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## **NAUS and National Military and Veterans Alliance support commissaries**

NAUS Weekly Update

NAUS along with members of the National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military and veteran service organizations, wrote a letter of support for an amendment to the fiscal 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1376) offered by Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) that would restore substantial budget cuts to the commissary program. We also support a related amendment on commissaries offered by Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and Mikulski to the Authorization bill. As the full Senate considers its version of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, NAUS urges readers to send a message to support the commissary program. The proposed cuts would dismantle the commissary benefit, relied upon by millions of military service members and their families, and will most directly hit those who need it most—junior enlisted families, fixed income retirees, and surviving families. Let your Senators know your support for this vital earned benefit.

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