



### **National Military Family Association supports amendment to protect commissaries from privatization**

NMFA

The National Military Family Association has long been an advocate for improving the quality of life of service members and their families, who have sacrificed greatly in support of our Nation. One of our highest priorities is protecting military families' earned benefits, including the savings achieved by shopping at the commissary. For this reason, we support your amendment to S. 1376, *the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016*, which would require a report assessing the viability of privatizing the commissary system before implementing any such changes... Thank you for introducing this important legislation to protect the quality of life of military families.

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### **American Military Retirees Association sends amendment support letter to Senators Inhofe and Mikulski**

AMRA

The American Military Retirees Association thanks you for introducing an amendment to H.R. 1735 which proposed an alternative to Section 652, relating to a plan to privatize the defense commissary system...Like you, the American Military Retirees Association believes that privatization provides the potential for negative impacts on military service members, family members, and retirees and that the risks of such change are too great to implement without further analysis and study...We are concerned that prices will rise, jobs for family members will be reduced, and that the overall quality of service will be diminished. We are encouraged by the fact that your amendment will fully assess these concerns.

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### **National Military and Veterans Alliance opposes commissary cuts and privatization**

NMVA

We strongly oppose the Senate Armed Services Committee's FY16 National Defense Authorization Act, which mirrors the administration's budget proposal to slash critical commissary funding, makes legislative changes enabling these cuts, and goes further in setting in motion privatization of these operations. We urge the Senate to reject these actions which will destroy the commissary benefit, raising prices 25 to 30 percent and breaking faith with our service members and their families. NMVA also opposes the report on privatizing the Defense Commissary Agency, and the pilot program on commissary privatization. At the very least, this will fragment a well functioning system, and would take a non-profit entity and turn it over to grocery chains at the expense of military families relied upon savings.

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### **Coalition valued associates warn Senate against making radical and irreversible changes to critical military benefits**

The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits

We strongly urge the Senate to 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 also strongly oppose the Committee proposal that directs the Department of Defense to conduct a report on commissary privatization and the two-year pilot program on five major installations. Privatizing commissaries to outside profit making grocery chains places military families' relied-upon savings at the whim of private industry and squanders billions of dollars worth of commissary stores that military families have paid for out of their own pockets.

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### **Coalition launches call to action urging members to write their Senator**

The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits

The Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the Defense bill drastically cuts critical commissary funding and makes legislative changes enabling these cuts... and goes further in setting in motion privatization of these operations. Please urge your Senators to: Maintain commissary funding at its current level and reject the plan for privatizing the commissary system and pilot program; Support Senator Inhofe's amendment calling for a report to assess the viability of privatizing the commissary system prior to the development of any plans to pilot programs to privatize commissaries without careful analysis.

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### **Coalition urges Facebook followers to take action**

Save Our Benefit

This week, the U.S. Senate is debating amendments that can severely impact or destroy EARNED commissary benefits. We can not over-emphasize the importance of taking action and your voice counts! Don't assume someone else is speaking up. We've already written the letter. It'll take just 60 seconds for you to email it to your Senators. Once you've sent the email, come back, share with your friends, get them to send letters, and then comment on this post... Comment from a military family member: "Honor the promises you made to the military. The commissary is important to all of us. A benefit we more than earned."

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### **Joining Forces Announces New Executive**

White House

On behalf of First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, we are pleased to welcome United States Air Force Colonel, select, Nicole Malachowski as the new Executive Director of Joining Forces. We are excited to have Nicole as part of the Joining Forces team, where she will continue the initiative's work to support our veterans, service members, and military families. Nicole is the first woman to serve as the Executive Director of Joining Forces, and succeeds Colonel Steve Parker, who is returning to the U.S. Army after an inspiring year with Joining Forces.

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### **Sen. Graham to retire from Air Force Reserve**

The Hill

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., plans to retire from the Air Force Reserve, having served more than three decades in the military. Graham's military service includes active-duty stints in the Air Force, the South Carolina Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Graham will soon hit the mandatory retirement age of 60 and is considering a run for the White House. He will now be part of the retired reserves.

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