



## **Coalition sends letter to Senate and House conferees**

Save Our Benefit

We strongly urge the Senate and House conferees to roll back provisions in the Senate version of the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act, which transfers operating costs to patrons including provisions to: (1) allow the Secretary of Defense to increase prices of goods at commissaries; (2) allow domestic transportation costs to be factored into the cost of goods and prices charged to patrons; and, (3) have patrons pay with surcharge costs that have traditionally been paid with appropriations. These actions will destroy the commissary benefit.

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## **Protect military commissary funding. Please act now!**

Air Force Sergeants Association

Please take a moment to send a letter to your elected officials calling for full commissary funding. The President and the Senate are looking to slash commissary funding by \$322 million next year, then another \$1 billion on top of that. Government analysis shows that commissaries save military beneficiaries about 30 percent on their annual grocery bills. The proposed cuts would amount to yet another significant hit on the purchasing power of service members, military retirees, their families and survivors.

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## **Save our full commissary benefit**

United States Army Warrant Officers Association

This is day 3 of our 5 Days, Five Calls For Legislative Action campaign on important legislative issues, regarding military benefits, currently being debated in Congress for the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016. Today's issue is stopping crippling proposed cuts to the important commissary benefit for military service members and retirees. The Commissary has long been an important benefit, utilized by currently serving and retired service members alike. If you agree with USAWOA that they deserve to continue enjoying this traditional, staple military benefit, please send a note to your Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill.

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## **Reject military pay and benefits cuts**

Military Officers Association of America

When Congress returns from the 4th of July holiday, lawmakers will tackle the FY 2016 defense bill. What's at stake: pay raises that fail to keep pace with the private sector, dramatic pharmacy fee increases, erosions to housing allowances, and continued cuts to commissaries. Fortunately, House lawmakers stopped these provisions dead in their tracks. However, the Senate plans to keep them alive. MOAA, and our partners in The Military Coalition, sent a letter to members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees highlighting our concerns as the conferees aim to complete the defense bill before the end of July. With time running out, we need your help. Contact your legislators and support the House-passed version of the defense bill.

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## **After SCOTUS ruling, VA revises benefits policy**

MOAA

For the first time, same-sex couples will become eligible to receive survivors' benefits, home loans, and other benefits from the VA. DoD began providing benefits to active duty same-sex couples in 2013. The VA's rule change now provides a continuum of benefits for all military families. "It makes little sense that a couple could be eligible for benefits on active duty, only to be denied earned benefits after taking off the uniform," said MOAA's Director of Government Relations, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret).

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## **Capitalizing on Veterans' STEM capabilities**

U.S. News & World Report

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math are fundamental aspects of many jobs performed during military service. And yet, it is often very difficult for veterans returning to the civilian workforce to capitalize on their capabilities and training. An article in *U.S. News and World Report* takes a look at the need for a concerted effort on the part of employers to take advantage of this great potential employee pool source.

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