



Senate bill privatizes long cherished military benefit without so much as a hearing

Save Our Benefit

The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits sent a letter addressed to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Committees on Armed Services to each conferee stating: We strongly urge the Senate and House conferees to roll back provisions in the Senate version of the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act, which dismantle long-standing legal protections for this benefit and require the Department of Defense to develop a plan to privatize commissaries and test the plan for two years in at least five of the largest U.S. commissary markets. These radical and irreversible changes would severely damage a benefit long cherished by millions of service members and their families who rely on the 30 percent savings commissaries provide, without so much as a hearing.

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Military Star card program drops MasterCard, adds points in overhaul

Navy Times

As of Sept. 30, AAFES no longer will offer the Chase Military Star Rewards MasterCard, although current customers can remain Chase customers with a newly issued card. AAFES is ending its relationship with Chase to simplify its credit offerings, AAFES spokesman Chris Ward said. "The split will cause less confusion for cardholders, who were managing two lines of credit and two separate payment systems," Ward said. Gone is the option to redeem points for cash, but military families will still earn points that can be redeemed for military exchange gift cards.

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Defending retirement benefits for the military

Yahoo Finance

The largest employer in the U.S., the Department of Defense, may change the way its workers receive retirement pay. The implications are huge. About 1.4 million men and women are on active duty today, about 825,000 more serve in the National Guard and Reserve, but only a fraction of them will qualify for pension benefits. Any changes to military retirement pay would require congressional approval. Both houses passed the NDAA but despite agreement in the bill on proposed retirement pay, the House and Senate versions contain differences in other areas – including commissary benefits – that must be reconciled. GovTrack.US estimates that the NDAA has a 37% chance of being enacted.

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