



AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Protecting the benefits of all Military Retirees and Veterans!

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Carl Levin
U. S. Senate
269 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2202

Dear Senator Levin:

We are pleased to learn that Rep. Chet Edwards of Texas has introduced **H.R. 816**, a bill that would prohibit certain increases in fees for military health care. As an Association comprised of military retirees we have noticed a troubling trend, with the Department of Defense (DOD) attempting to shift more and more of the cost of health care to retired service members. Increasing TRICARE premiums, copays, deductibles and pharmacy costs are not only a burden on retirees, but they do not instill confidence in our active-duty men and women that a grateful nation will take care of them when they retire. If we are to keep our nation's defenses strong and fully-manned, troops must have confidence in the contract they make with the DoD when they enlist...or suffer the consequences of the impact on retention within our armed forces.

As Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we respectfully encourage you to include the language from H.R. 816 as you draft the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act. The men and women who made serving their country *their* priority, and *their* career, deserve no less than the best health care we can offer them at the lowest possible cost to them. We understand the difficulties of these economic times...but our warriors have already paid very high premiums for the medical services they should be able to avail themselves of without bringing the family budget to its knees.

Once again, we urge you to take action on TRICARE fee increases by proposing a bill to prohibit those fee increases. America's military retirees and active-duty personnel will appreciate your support and we look forward to supporting your bill and helping you get it signed into law.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. LaValle
National President



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The Honorable John McCain
U. S. Senate
241 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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As Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we respectfully encourage you to include the language from H.R. 816 as you draft the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act. The men and women who made serving their country *their* priority, and *their* career, deserve no less than the best health care we can offer them at the lowest possible cost to them. We understand the difficulties of these economic times...but our warriors have already paid very high premiums for the medical services they should be able to avail themselves of without bringing the family budget to its knees.

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