



National Military and Veterans Alliance

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The Honorable Members
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Mikulski and Members, Committee on Appropriations:

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military and veteran service organizations, urges your support for Senator Barbara Mikulski's amendment to the fiscal 2016 Defense Appropriations Bill that restores substantial budget cuts to the commissary program.

Commissary and exchanges are a vital part of military pay and compensation. The military community greatly value and use these earned benefits. They consistently rank them as a top compensation benefit, yielding returns to patrons and the DoD that far outweigh taxpayer support. Moreover, service members and their families are partners with taxpayers, having financed billions of dollars in facilities and quality of life programs.

The proposed cuts will 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.

Again, NMVA urges your support for the Mikulski amendment to restore proposed cuts to the commissary program and thank you for your efforts to support the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

Member Organizations, National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA)

American Logistics Association
American Military Retirees Association
American Military Society
American Retirees Association
Armed Forces Marketing Council
Army and Navy Union of USA
Military Order of Foreign Wars

Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Defense Committee
Society of Military Widows
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees