



## THE MILITARY COALITION

201 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

June 7, 2017

The Honorable Walter Jones  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Representative Jones:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing 5.5 million current and former service members, their families and survivors, strongly supports the *Military Patron Protection Act*. This important piece of legislation would safeguard the commissary benefit relied on by service members and their families as well as survivors and retirees and institute important transparency measures. We thank you for introducing this legislation.

In recent months, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has taken steps to significantly alter its traditional business practices, including the introduction of private label products and variable pricing. While these reforms are intended to reduce the military resale system's need for appropriated funding, we are concerned about the long-term impact on the value of the commissary benefit.

The *Military Patron Protection Act* would create a Military Resale Patron Advisory Commission to help ensure the views of service members, veterans and their families are given full consideration. It would introduce transparency requirements to ensure effective Congressional oversight and allow patrons a voice in the operation of the resale system. We urge Congress to include these common-sense measures in this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Thank you for introducing this legislation that would help preserve a key benefit for service members, their families, survivors and retirees and enhance their quality of life.

Sincerely,  
The Military Coalition  
(Signatures enclosed)

Denise Hollywood  
Air Force Association

[Signature]  
Air Force Sergeants Association

E. J. Sinclair  
Army Aviation Association of America

[Signature]  
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

Carl R. Hen  
Association of the United States Army

Gary E. Hill  
Association of the United States Navy

James T. Currie  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public Health Service, Inc

Carol Setteducato  
CWOA, US Coast Guard

Thomas J. Free  
Fleet Reserve Association

Harriet Boyden  
Gold Star Wives of America

Norman Rosenbergs  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

[Signature]  
Marine Corps Reserve Association

Dana T. Atkins  
Military Officers Association of America

[Signature]  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Joyce Wessel Ragan  
National Military Family Association

Michael P. Hyatt  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

[Signature]  
Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America

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Reserve Officers Association

Judy Patterson  
Service Women's Action Network

Gregory B. Cawley  
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

Dorinda Lark Holleman  
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

Bonnie Carroll  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Ruby Reil  
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

Jack R. Stahl  
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

[Signature]  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

Richard F. Weidman  
Vietnam Veterans of America