



2024 Team Packet

Elevator Pitches and Abbreviated Background

Support the Major Richard Star Act

The Star Act will support 52,000 combat-injured veterans who are ineligible for concurrent receipt. Concurrent receipt might sound complicated, but it isn't:

- DoD is responsible for retired pay, earned through vested years of service.
- The VA is responsible for disability compensation for lifelong injury, earned through personal sacrifice.
- These are two different payments for two different purposes. Servicemembers who were injured in combat and forced to retire early face an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of disability compensation received from the VA. Congress acknowledged this as an injustice in the FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act and partially fixed it, but more needs to be done.

To cut retirement pay because of combat-related disability remains an injustice. Combat-injured veterans earned retirement pay through their service. Reducing service-earned retirement to yield savings is shortsighted and fosters negative narratives about how our government treats combat-injured servicemembers.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Reform

In 2015, DoD began reducing BAH to "balance the growth in compensation costs." The BAH reduction was essentially a cost-savings measure on the backs of servicemembers and their families, many of whom endured multiple deployments during the previous decade consumed by the war on terror. They still face frequent moves and a continuously fluctuating housing market.

DoD remains focused on improving financial security and stability across the force. But even though DoD has authority to restore BAH without permission from Congress, servicemembers are still subject to a 5% cost share.

Our nation expects 100% from servicemembers, and Congress should ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance. Support BAH restoration and pass the BAH Restoration Act.

Protect TRICARE For Life

TRICARE For Life (TFL) provides Medicare wraparound coverage for military retirees. Congress created TFL 20 years ago to address a broken commitment for lifetime health care after DoD closed more than half of military treatment facilities, leaving many seniors with no military health care benefit. TFL became a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force throughout two decades of war.

MOAA takes a balanced approach to TRICARE fee increases — we understand health care costs are rising and don't oppose indexing existing TRICARE fees by annual military retired pay COLA. Our mission is to preserve and protect earned benefits, so MOAA opposes TFL fees because that would change the terms of the health care benefit after it has been earned, violating our nation's obligation to those who served and putting at risk their endorsement of military service to future generations.

Congress has been instrumental in blocking various past proposals for TFL fees that would slash the benefit for seniors. There are currently no active proposals for TFL fees, but we know the military health system budget faces continued pressure. The small percentage of citizens who handle 100% of our national defense have earned the benefit through service and sacrifice. We are counting on Congress to protect TFL.