



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8113

January 8, 2014

The Honorable SAMPLE SAMPLE
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative SAMPLE,

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of 33 uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors – along with our colleagues at The American Legion – want to express our grave concern about the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2013 provision which will penalize those who serve a career in uniform and ask you to repeal this onerous provision as soon as possible.

The one percent annual reduction to uniformed service retired pay Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for those under age 62 will have a devastating, long-term impact for those who retire after 20 years of service. While portrayed as a minor change by the press, a loss of over \$83,000 in an E-7's retired pay is a significant cut in military career benefits and an egregious breach of faith, especially to those in uniform on the ground today in Afghanistan planning for a career.

Service in the uniform is unlike any other occupation. Roughly one percent of the nation's population is currently serving and shouldering 100 percent of the responsibility for our wartime and national security requirements. The benefits connected with this service have been earned through 20 or more years of arduous military service.

The FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act established the Military Retirement and Modernization Commission which ensured any recommended changes to the retirement system would go through the appropriate due process by the committees and would not impact the existing force and retirees – the BBA actually bypassed the appropriate committees and does impact current retirees and the current force.

The Coalition remains wary of the Commission's ultimate goal, but believes it should be given the consideration to finish its report instead of allowing the BBA to intercede without any discussion or acknowledgement of the repercussions to immediate morale and long-term readiness and retention.

The Military Coalition and The American Legion ask that you join your colleagues by cosponsoring a bill to eliminate this harmful provision and we ask that you demand Congressional leadership take the necessary steps now to repeal the entire COLA provision and this breach of faith.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition and The American Legion

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals
Association of the United States Army
Association of the United States Navy
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Wives
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
Marine Corps League
Marine Corps Reserve Association
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces
The Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America
The Retired Enlisted Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Vietnam Veterans of America