



MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT
MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 14, 2015

Chairman John McCain
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We thank the Congress for its consistent support for the Commission and its focus on improving benefits for Service members, veterans, retirees, and their families. This letter reaffirms the Commission's support for several of its recommendations that were not addressed in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2016:¹

- **Ensure Service members receive the best possible combat casualty care.** The vast majority of Service members who were wounded on the battlefield were able to return home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of them are continuing to serve our Nation because of the exceptional care they received from our military health care providers in the field. This medical expertise, honed during more than a decade of saving lives in combat, must be maintained and further improved whenever possible. Evidence shows it may be difficult to sustain these combat medical capabilities with the typical mix of cases seen in the military health care system during peacetime. The Secretary of Defense, together with the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, should seek to enhance dedicated oversight of medical readiness through the creation of a joint medical component within a newly established joint readiness command, as well as a medical directorate in the Joint Staff. The Congress and DoD should define and measure essential medical capabilities (EMCs) to promote and maintain critical capabilities within the military medical force. DoD should be granted additional authorities to attract EMC-related cases into military treatment facilities to best support their mission as a training platform for military medical personnel.
- **Increase access, choice, and value of health care for active-duty family members, Reserve Component members, and retirees.** TRICARE often limits access to care by confining beneficiaries to a lengthy and frustrating process for obtaining specialty care and to weak networks of civilian health care providers. The adverse effect of weak provider networks is even more profound for beneficiaries living in remote locations, including RC members. The Congress should replace the current health care program with a new system that offers beneficiaries a selection of commercial insurance plans. Costs of these plans should be offset for active-duty families with a new Basic Allowance

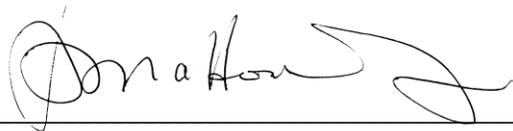
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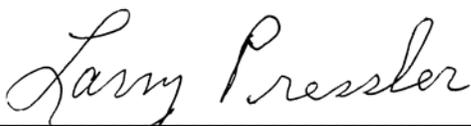
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- **Protect both access to and savings at DoD commissaries and exchanges.** DoD commissaries and exchanges provide valued financial benefits to Service members and should be maintained. Although there are many differences between commissaries and exchanges, the Commission found these two activities perform similar missions, for similar patrons, with similar staff, using similar processes. DoD commissaries and exchanges should be consolidated under a single manager to leverage these similarities. The merger of many back-end operation and support functions, alignment of incentives and policies, and consistent implementation of best practices should achieve significant efficiencies while maintaining the value of the benefits for Service members and their families.

It has been a great honor to be part of the public discussion regarding how we, as a grateful nation, ensure Service members and their families benefit from a modern and relevant compensation system. We again thank the Congress, the DoD, and all who participated in the Commission's efforts during the past two years.

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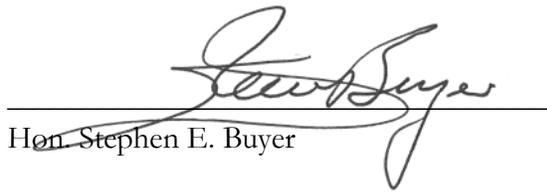
Hon. Alphonso Maldon, Jr.
Chairman



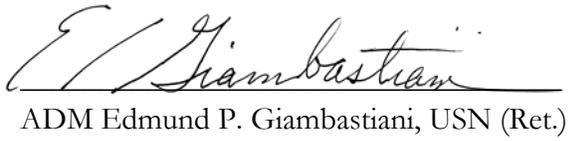
Hon. Larry I. Pressler



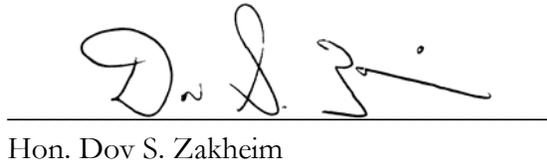
GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, USA (Ret.)



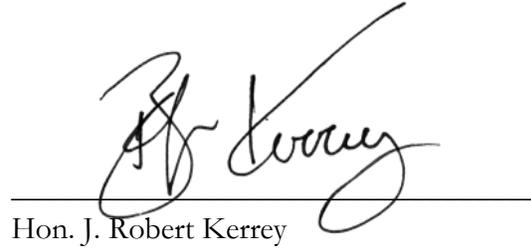
Hon. Stephen E. Buyer



ADM Edmund P. Giambastiani, USN (Ret.)



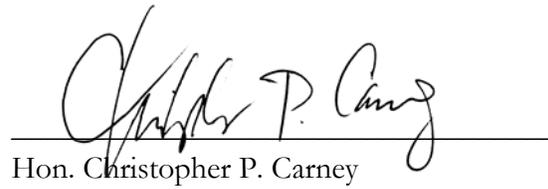
Hon. Dov S. Zakheim



Hon. J. Robert Kerrey



Mr. Michael R. Higgins



Hon. Christopher P. Carney



MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT
MODERNIZATION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 14, 2015

Senator Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Senator Reed:

We thank the Congress for its consistent support for the Commission and its focus on improving benefits for Service members, veterans, retirees, and their families. This letter reaffirms the Commission's support for several of its recommendations that were not addressed in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2016:¹

- **Ensure Service members receive the best possible combat casualty care.** The vast majority of Service members who were wounded on the battlefield were able to return home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of them are continuing to serve our Nation because of the exceptional care they received from our military health care providers in the field. This medical expertise, honed during more than a decade of saving lives in combat, must be maintained and further improved whenever possible. Evidence shows it may be difficult to sustain these combat medical capabilities with the typical mix of cases seen in the military health care system during peacetime. The Secretary of Defense, together with the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, should seek to enhance dedicated oversight of medical readiness through the creation of a joint medical component within a newly established joint readiness command, as well as a medical directorate in the Joint Staff. The Congress and DoD should define and measure essential medical capabilities (EMCs) to promote and maintain critical capabilities within the military medical force. DoD should be granted additional authorities to attract EMC-related cases into military treatment facilities to best support their mission as a training platform for military medical personnel.
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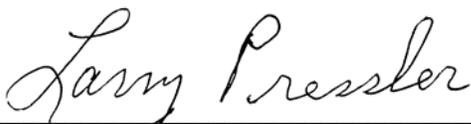
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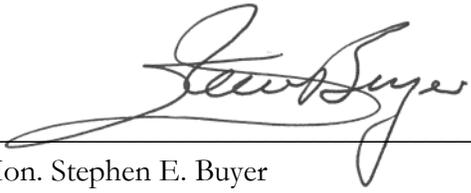
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GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, USA (Ret.)



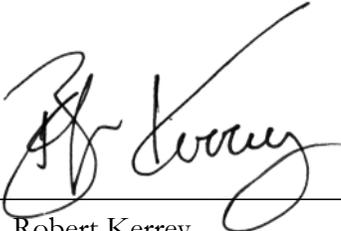
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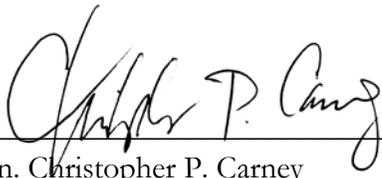
Hon. Dov S. Zakheim



Hon. J. Robert Kerrey



Mr. Michael R. Higgins



Hon. Christopher P. Carney



MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT
MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 14, 2015

Chairman Mac Thornberry
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry:

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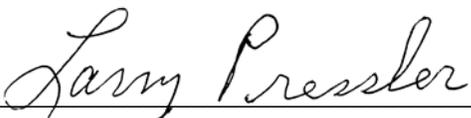
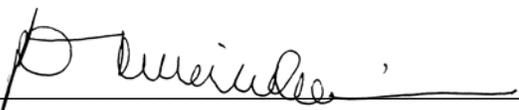
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Chairman


Hon. Larry I. Pressler
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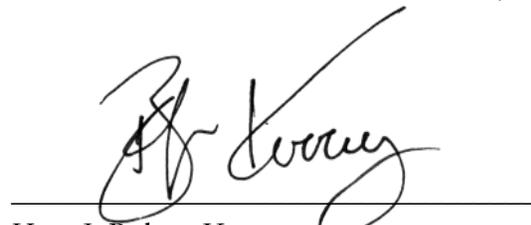
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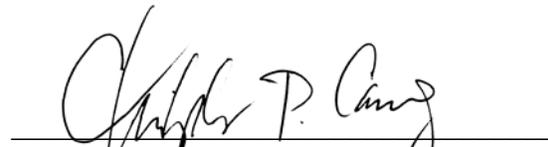
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Ranking Member Adam Smith
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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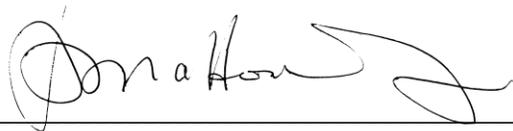
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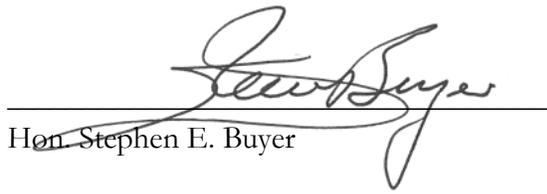
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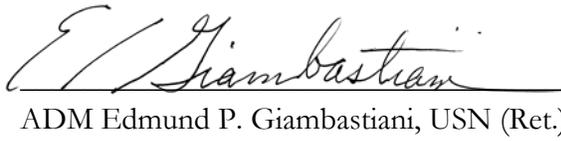
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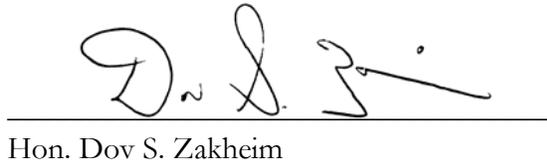
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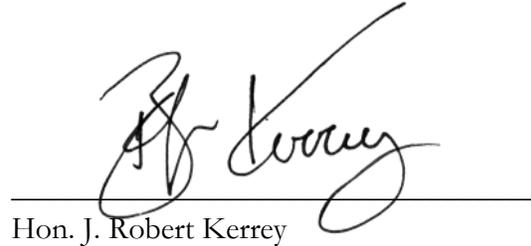
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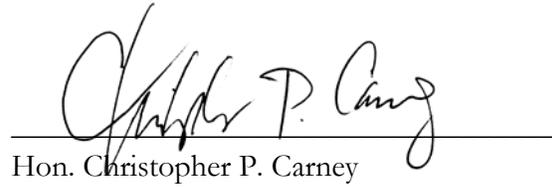
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