

THREAT: Increase healthcare premiums for military retirees on TRICARE

SITUATION: Congress is moving to increase TRICARE premiums for military retirees in the coming fiscal year and index premiums to inflation and annual cost-of-living allowances in the future.

VFW POSITION:

- The VFW is totally opposed to any TRICARE fee or enrollment increases.
- Service members pay the equivalent of enormous in-kind premiums for health care in retirement through their extended sacrifices in uniformed services.
- The VFW has always believed that a primary, absolutely necessary benefit of a career typified by unique and extraordinary sacrifices in the armed forces must be a collection of exceptional retirement benefits. TRICARE is the cornerstone of that benefit package.
- Any cost increases on military retirees, whether in fees, co-pays or other means represents a shift of responsibility for care from the DOD to the service member. The VFW opposes any such cost shift.
- The VFW is also very concerned with the effects raising TRICARE fees will have on the long-term sustainability of the all-volunteer force. Eroding such benefits will only serve to undermine long-term retention and readiness.