



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

Dear Representative Stark,

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed service and veterans organizations representing more than 5.5 million active duty, Guard, Reserve, retired and former servicemembers plus their families and survivors, is writing to urge you to vote for H.R. 3961 to reverse the 21% reduction in the Medicare and military TRICARE physician payment rates that will take effect as of January 1, 2010 unless Congress acts before that date.

The Coalition is extremely disappointed that Congress has not already acted to fix this flawed statutory formula that, if left uncorrected, will impose a cumulative 40% payment reduction over the next several years.

The cuts are particularly problematic for millions of TRICARE beneficiaries -- including active duty, National Guard, and Reserve families; retirees; and survivors -- who reside in areas where there isn't a large military population or military hospital. The last thing our troops in combat should have to worry about is whether their sick spouse or child can find a doctor to treat them.

Further, hundreds of thousands of Medicare patients enrolled in physical, speech, or occupational therapy are at risk of having that treatment cut off on January 1 unless the current exemption is extended.

Republicans, Democrats, the Senate, the House, and the Administration may have some differences over the details of a fix or the specifics of funding sources, but it is long past time to resolve those differences and get a fix into law immediately.

Congress simply must put military and Medicare beneficiaries' health care access above political and partisan concerns and ensure this vital issue receives urgent and immediate action.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition

(Signatures enclosed)

Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Air Force Women Officers Associated  
American Logistics Association  
AMVETS  
Army Aviation Association of America  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States  
Association of the United States Army  
Association of the United States Navy  
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association of the US Coast Guard  
Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service, Inc.  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives of America  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Of America  
Marine Corps League  
Marine Corps Reserve Association  
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America  
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  
National Order of Battlefield Commissions  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Reserve Enlisted Association  
Reserve Officers Association  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association  
Veterans of Foreign Wars