10 March 2006

The Honorable Chet Edwards
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Fax: 202-225-0350

The Honorable Walter Jones
422 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Fax: 202-225-3286

Dear Representatives Edwards and Jones:

On behalf of the members of FRA, I’m writing to express appreciation to you for sponsoring legislation to limit the Secretary of Defense’s statutory authorities to increase health care deductibles, co-payments, and enrollment fees for military beneficiaries.

The Department of Defense’s FY 2007 Budget includes a drastic increase in TRICARE fees and higher retail pharmacy co-pays over the next two years. The plan would triple some beneficiary health costs, especially for retired beneficiaries under age 65, over two years and beyond, beginning October 1, 2006.

FRA opposes the proposed increases and believes that providing and funding health care benefits for all beneficiaries is part of the cost of defending our freedoms and fulfilling commitments made in return for their service to our Nation.

Your proposed legislation will protect TRICARE beneficiaries against new fees or current fee increases without Congressional approval and the Association appreciates your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH L. BARNES
National Executive Secretary

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