

ROA ALERT: Military Health Care Faces Draconian Recommendations

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has urged the Super Committee, which has been tasked to make \$1.2 trillion in cuts from the federal budget, to consider recommendations by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) that would not only bar retirees under 65 from using TRICARE Prime, but would add Draconian fees to the existing military health care system.

The CBO proposal would impose a huge new enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard, require annual enrollment, bar TRICARE from acting as second payer to other insurance, and raise the retiree catastrophic cap from \$3,000 to \$7,500 a year. Normally, CBO recommendations do not generate legislation, but in the current environment, as suggested costs savings are being considered in the current environment, Sen. McCain's recommendation to the Super Committee could end up getting the CBO proposal serious consideration.

Such changes would be in addition to the President's recommendation to add a \$200 a year enrollment fee to TRICARE for Life. Recommended increase in prescription co-payments will cost military families and retirees more, and will reduce the effectiveness of preventative medicine, likely raising the Department of Defense's actual medical expenses.

The Reserve Officers Association feels it is inappropriate to "tax" the 1.6 percent of the population that has been willing to defend the rest of the U.S. population from external threats. Current and former uniformed service members earned their benefits not only through their service, but also through the stress and sacrifice that is without comparison faced by the common citizenry. Please contact your elected officials and the White House by going to ROA's Website and sending letters to our elected officials at www.roa.org/write_2_congress