

## Resolution On TRICARE Beneficiary Cost Shares

**Whereas** the Military Health System (MHS) is one of our nation's largest and most complex health care institutions; *and*

**Whereas** the MHS is designed as a complex system that weaves together health care delivery, medical education, public health, private sector partnerships, and cutting-edge medical research and development; *and*

**Whereas** health care coverage through the TRICARE program is an integral component of the MHS; *and*

**Whereas** over nine million service members past and present and their families rely on the TRICARE program for their health care needs; *and*

**Whereas** the vitality of the TRICARE program plays a significant role in maintaining the integrity of an all-volunteer force; *and*

**Whereas** years of scaling down budgets, system reforms, increasing fees, and a false narrative of what beneficiaries contribute has harmed the vitality of the TRICARE program and beneficiary quality of life and access to care; *and*

**Whereas** military retirees' health care benefits are frequently targeted as a resource for Department of Defense (DoD) readiness accounts; *and*

**Whereas** today's working-age TRICARE retiree's cost shares are now more closely aligned with the average civilian's cost shares; *and*

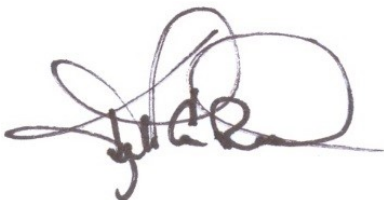
**Whereas** yet to be implemented reformatations to the MHS and TRICARE contract structure, in conjunction with rising prescription costs and other marketplace indicators, are likely to further increase health care costs for TRICARE beneficiaries; *and*

**Whereas** service-earned benefits are a top priority for the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA); *now*

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the AFSA urges decision-makers to:

1. Oppose future TRICARE fee increases.
2. Ensure any programmatic revision to TRICARE and its managed care support contract structure does not force beneficiaries to incur any additional costs.
3. Separate the costs of providing health care to TRICARE beneficiaries from the costs of ensuring readiness.
4. Improve the transparency of readiness funding.
5. Reprogram appropriate apportionments of funds from year-end savings back into the TRICARE program or to beneficiaries to lower their health care costs; *and*

**Further** the AFSA Military and Government Relations staff is required to deliver copies of this resolution to appropriate national decision-makers.



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Executive Director



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International President