

**Ensure TRICARE remains affordable and accessible to support Total Force medical readiness  
(Health and Dental Care)  
Resolution No. 25-25**

**WHEREAS**, reserve component members of the United States uniformed services, including those in the Public Health Service Ready Reserve Corps (USPHS RRC), dedicate themselves to the protection and security of our nation, often sacrificing personal safety, family stability, and long-term health; and

**WHEREAS**, reserve component members make up nearly 40 percent of the Total Force and play a crucial role in national defense; and

**WHEREAS**, reserve component members frequently deploy alongside active-duty forces and are required to meet the same medical readiness standards, yet face disparities in TRICARE access that undermine, and in some cases, hinder their readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the USPHS RRC, for example, currently lack access to TRICARE benefits, which further contributes to disparities in Total Force medical readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring reserve component members have access to affordable TRICARE coverage is essential to maintaining their medical readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of such access has led to reserve component service members not arriving at their first permanent duty stations fully ready, taking time away from critical pre-deployment training, or even delaying deployment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense (DoD) has faced longstanding challenges in meeting Individual Medical Readiness standards; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these challenges, DoD does not view healthcare as a deferred benefit, with its 2013 Strategic Choices and Management Review recommending encouraging TRICARE beneficiaries to rely on private-sector insurance—even though many employers, especially small businesses, do not offer insurance as a benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, significant increases in TRICARE fees, combined with current system inefficiencies, are likely to create financial and medical hardships for reserve component members, potentially jeopardizing their access to essential medical and dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining affordable and accessible TRICARE coverage is critical to sustaining a deployable and ready force, which can reduce the need for medical support in theater and decrease medical evacuations, ultimately saving money and freeing up resources for other mission-critical purposes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Reserve Organization of America urges Congress and the Department of Defense to ensure that TRICARE remains both accessible and affordable for reserve component members, including those in the USPHS RRC.

Approved via renewal/consolidation with 22-33, Limit Military Health Care Beneficiary Fee Increases,  
R&L Committee, 13 March 2025  
Submitted: ROA national 12 March 2025