

# Reeb Government Relations, LLC

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April 19, 2021

The Honorable Ash Kalra  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2196  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1400 - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblyman Kalra:

On behalf of our client, the Military Officers Association of America-California Council of Chapters (CALMOAA), we are writing to oppose your legislation, AB 1400, which seeks to create a state-run health care system (CalCare).

CALMOAA would like to bring to your attention how this legislation could adversely impact the military retirees, veterans, and their dependents living in California. The bill as introduced, does not address the impact on military dependents residing in the state who rely on Tricare for health benefits or those who utilize military health care facilities.

Tricare is a health care program of the United States Department of Defense Military Health System. Tricare provides civilian health benefits for U.S Armed Forces military personnel, military retirees, and their dependents, including some members of the Reserve Component. CALMOAA is concerned that the bill does not address how it would impact health care for active-duty military members assigned to independent duty, such as recruiting duty or instructor duty at Reserve Centers.

CALMOAA also has concerns about how the health care system envisioned in AB 1400 would impact disabled veterans who receive care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System. Would disabled veterans who receive health care free of charge, earned by virtue of their service and injuries, be taxed by California? Would our active-duty military families and military retirees on Tricare and Tricare for Life be forced to pay a tax to help fund the proposed Cal Care program?

Tricare for Life was enacted by Congress in response to beneficiaries losing their coverage upon attaining Medicare eligibility at age 65, thereby placing them at the same level of

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coverage as non-military retirees who had never served the full 20-to-30-year careers in the armed forces. This included becoming Medicare eligible due to disability. If California is granted a waiver to receive all Medicare funds, how would that impact military retirees on Tricare for Life?

If waivers and agreements are put in place to allow existing federal health care payments to be paid to CalCare, that will add another layer of bureaucracy to an already complex system. CALMOAA feels that California does not need to set up another roadblock that will prevent affordable medical care. The cost of AB 1400 is unsustainable with no funding sources identified and which could have a negative impact on future health care in California. California's military retirees and veterans fear that their hard-earned benefits will suffer if AB 1400 is enacted.

The Military Officers Association of America is a non-profit organization with National Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. It is operated exclusively for purposes beneficial to the interests of the nation and its Uniformed Services personnel, their family members, and survivors. CALMOAA strives to aid personnel of the military services from which their members are drawn, and their family members and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner.

Sincerely,



Dana Nichol

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs  
Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs