

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan today praised House and Senate leaders for preventing steep increases in TRICARE fees as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Earlier this year, Buchanan wrote a letter to President Obama voicing strong opposition to proposed tiered-increases in health care fees for both active duty and retired U.S. military personnel.

“Today is a big win for Florida’s veterans,” said Buchanan. “These fee increases could have affected as many as 21.8 million veterans and their families. Our brave men and women have earned these benefits and deserve all the care and respect a grateful nation can offer.”

The NDAA conference report released last night included provisions which raises pay for active duty troops and rejected the White House’s proposal to increase most TRICARE fees, including the establishment of new TRICARE enrollment fees.

“Once again, Congressman Buchanan has proven a fighter for Florida’s veterans,” said Colonel Lee Kichen, a Sarasota Veteran and VFW National Legislative Committee Chairman. “This is a victory for TRICARE recipients -- especially given the demographics in our district.”

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the final passage of the NDAA tomorrow evening, where it is expected to pass with broad bipartisan support.