

## DoD Position

### Proposed Dodd Amendment – SA 3312

Allows reimbursement for force protection, safety, and health items for servicemen in OIF, OEF and ONE

- The DoD does not support the amendment.
- The amendment may not support the purchase of the proper equipment. The DOD spends millions to test and procure the needed protective, safety, and health equipment for our Service members. The DOD will have no way of knowing what testing personally procured items went through or whether the equipment is effective. It allows each individual to make those judgments rather than holding the Department accountable to provide for its members.
- The amendment does not explain what happens to the equipment once the DOD reimburses the Service member for it. If we buy it, DOD should own it, and it should be put back into the system, but we cannot do that when we can't vouch for its effectiveness.
- It's far too broad. Anybody who bought almost anything can get reimbursed. There's no cap on the dollar amount a person can claim. It doesn't mention a time period, whether or not the Soldier was already issued a comparable item, was in an area where the

force protection/safety item would even be necessary, or specify what items apply (for example, RFI is not a one-size-fits-all program; some units do not receive the full complement based upon their mission).

- Most importantly, this sets an unmanageable precedent that will saddle the DOD with an open-ended financial burden. This amendment will encourage Service members and their loved ones to purchase equipment on their own outside this accountability with the expectation of receiving future reimbursement.
- The DOD speeded up testing, greatly expanded the number of Service members who will receive force protection items and increased production schedules to get the proper force protection equipment into theater as quickly as possible. This is the best approach to providing for our soldiers.
- Reimbursement of personally acquired equipment is not in the best interest of the DOD.