Dear Troop Dining Contractor:  You are aware that DOD has published proposed rules that would dramatically impact the Randolph-Sheppard priority to manage and operate military dining contracts.  DOD is now accepting comments from the public regarding the rules.  We want to generate literally thousands of comments and NABM has made it extremely easy to do so.  We have created a website that automates the entire process.  We want the employees who work on your contracts to submit comments in opposition to the proposed rule.  If these rules become final, many of the current contracts will go to AbilityOne and not only will you be out but your employees will be out of work as well.  Please encourage all of your employees to go to:

<https://nfb.constituentvoice.net/nfbreg/>

They will need to click on the box that reads "Military Base Employee."  They will then be asked to enter their name and state.  They then hit "Submit" and prepared comments will automatically be submitted to the Federal Register.  It will take no more than 30 seconds.  It can't be any easier than that.  The prepared comments will appear on the screen so they can read them before actually submitting.

You can also have friends, family, and others submit comments on this same website.  They click on the box that reads "Other Stakeholder" and then enter their name and state and hit
"Submit."

Help us generate thousands of comments.  Share the link above and encourage people to submit comments and help save your contract.  The site will be available for comments until August 5th but please don't wait.

Thanks!

Terry Smith

NFBEI

If you cannot go on-line, complete the form below and return it and it will be submitted for you.

Blind Person

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a blind person residing in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . I submit these comments as someone who is interested in the Randolph-Sheppard Program because it is the most successful employment / entrepreneurial program ever created for blind persons in this country. I am very much opposed to the rule being proposed by the Department of Defense (DFAR Case 2015-D012) because it will be harmful to blind entrepreneurs who currently hold contracts to provide troop dining services.

In 2012, President Obama made a promise to the blindness community and fulfilled that promise by issuing a Presidential Memorandum directing all federal agencies to support the Randolph-Sheppard Program. He took the extraordinary step of making sure that DOD understood the directive applied to them by spec9fically including cafeterias and troop dining contracts. Now, four years later, DOD is attempting to force the President to renege on his commitment to the blind and the Randolph-Sheppard Program.

I, like others in the blindness community, am concerned that the proposed rule are counter to the spirit and intent of the Randolph-Sheppard Act as well as the letter of the law. In regards to intent, the Randolph-Sheppard Act states that its purpose is to enlarge economic opportunities for the blind. If enacted, the proposed rule will instead eliminate opportunities.

And finally, DOD has failed to establish any legitimate reason that this rule is necessary. Blind vendors have an exemplary record in providing troop dining services to our military troops. Many have won awards recognizing them for the quality of their service. DOD has stated that it wants clarity for its contracting officers. But why does providing clarity have to result in fewer opportunities for the blind and more opportunities for the AbilityOne Program which is under multiple investigations for fraud and abuse? DOD could provide clarity by simply copying current Department of Education regulations and placing them in the DFAR. But it is not clarity that it truly wants.

I’d strongly urge the Department of Defense to withdraw this proposed rule and fulfill President Obama’s promise of enlarging economic opportunities for the blind rather than eliminating them.

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I want to support and submit comments to stop DOD negative rule changes concerning the Randolph Sheppard Act.

Print Very Clearly Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Initials or Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_