

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As you negotiate further legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we renew our calls to include measures to support our service members, their families, and military retirees. By temporarily eliminating the copay for mail order prescriptions through TRICARE, beneficiaries can continue to access their prescription medications at no cost out of pocket while practicing social distancing and protecting mission critical personnel.

Section 702 of the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act adjusted pharmacy copayments for 2018 through 2027, when the Secretary of Defense will be authorized to set and adjust cost-sharing amounts. For 2020, the copay is \$10 for a 90-day supply of a generic drug and \$29 for a 90-day supply of a brand name drug. However, if a beneficiary picks up their prescription drugs from a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), they do not need to pay anything out of pocket.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends staying home and practicing social distancing, TRICARE should similarly incentivize people to follow these guidelines. An easy way to keep people in their homes is to temporarily eliminate the copay for mail order drugs, making the cost the same no matter how the beneficiary receives their medication. Service members, retirees, and their families would no longer need to choose between staying safe and accessing prescription drugs without a copay.

In addition to helping service members, retirees, and their families make safe choices in accordance with CDC guidelines, this decision would help beneficiaries who are no longer able to access a MTF. Some installation commanders have suspended or limited installation access for retirees and survivors to protect mission critical personnel from infection. Many of these beneficiaries can no longer access the MTF pharmacies and will have to transfer their prescriptions to mail order or retail pharmacies. These impacted families should not be burdened with unexpected costs related to mail order pharmacy copays.

In any upcoming coronavirus relief package, I urge you to consider this change to help TRICARE beneficiaries access their medications without incurring extra cost or endangering

their health. I appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you for your service and leadership during this national crisis.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress

/s/
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

/s/
Ed Case
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Cole
Member of Congress

/s/
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

/s/
André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

/s/
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Denny Heck
Member of Congress

/s/
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

/s/
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

/s/
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

/s/
Anne McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

/s/
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Levin
Member of Congress

/s/
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

/s/
Gregory F. Murphy, MD
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

/s/
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

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David Scott
Member of Congress

/s/
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

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Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

/s/
Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/
David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/
Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

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Steve Womack
Member of Congress

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John Yarmuth
Member of Congress