

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

/s/  
David Scott  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
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

/s/  
Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress