

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Russell Senate Building, Room 228
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thornberry, Chairman McCain, Ranking Member Smith, and Ranking Member Reed:

We are writing to ask for your support in advancing Section 721 of H.R. 2810, as part of the final National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18). Section 721 contains a one-year extension of the Department of Defense (“DoD”) authority to implement the TRICARE Prescription Drug Acquisition Cost Parity Pilot Program (the “Pilot”) as contained in the FY17 NDAA.

The DoD’s authorization to implement the Pilot expired on October 1, 2017. We believe the DoD would benefit from more time to consider the benefits of the Pilot. The Pilot will provide TRICARE beneficiaries with better access to pharmacist care and freedom to choose where to fill their prescriptions. Moreover, the Pilot is anticipated to generate significant cost savings through lower administration fees and enhanced savings on brand medications through lower net DoD acquisition costs for prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies.

Implementation of the Pilot program enjoys strong support in Congress. In fact, earlier this year 67 members of the House and 21 Senators sent letters to the DoD in support of the Pilot. We therefore urge you to adopt the House provision extending by one year the authorization for the “Pilot Program for Prescription Drug Acquisition Cost Parity in the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits Program” as included in the FY2017 NDAA. Thank you for your continued work on this important legislation.

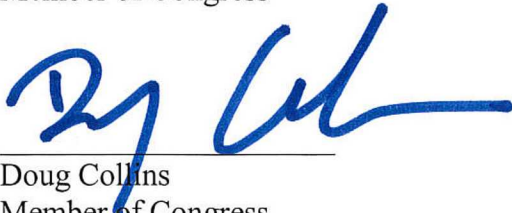
Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



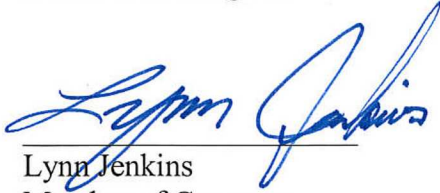
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Doug Collins
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



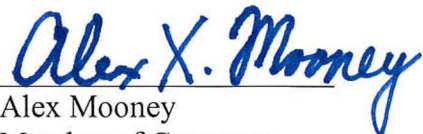
Mike Bost
Member of Congress




French Hill
Member of Congress



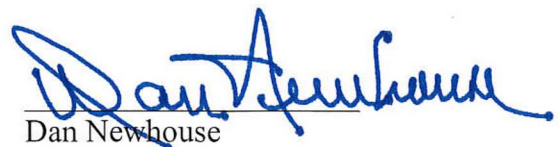
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Alex Mooney
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



David Young
Member of Congress



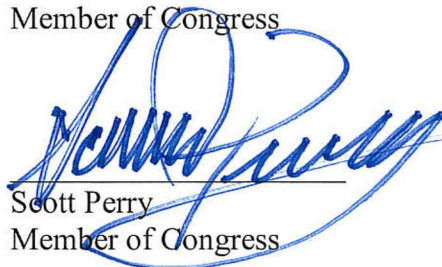
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



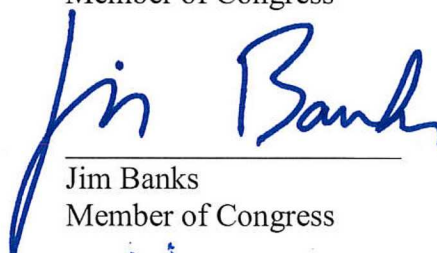
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress




Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
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David McKinley
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Bill Flores
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Bill Huizenga
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Tom Marino
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Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
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Robert B. Aderholt
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Steve King
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Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress


Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Garret Graves
Member of Congress


Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek Kilmer", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress