

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 29, 2022

The Honorable Seileen Mullen
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Defense Health Agency
7700 Arlington Boulevard
Suite 5101
Falls Church, VA 22042-5101

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Mullen,

We write to request information regarding the Department of Defense Health Agency's (DHA) monitoring of TRICARE beneficiaries' access to retail and community pharmacies.

It has been brought to our attention that Express Scripts has reduced reimbursements for prescriptions dispensed at in-network retail pharmacies for 2023. These reductions may leave many retail pharmacies unable to participate in the TRICARE Pharmacy Program, thus significantly impacting 9.6 million TRICARE beneficiaries' access to local pharmacies. Most recently, Express Scripts notified pharmacies and beneficiaries that current 2022 pharmacy contracts will expire October 24, 2022, rather than the end of the year. This will only further reduce the pharmacy network for TRICARE patients and their families, and may force beneficiaries to change pharmacies at a time when many receive annual vaccinations.

Pharmacists continue to be one of the most accessible health care providers in the United States. Over 90 percent of Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy, and 76.5 percent of pharmacies in rural areas are independent community pharmacies. As you know, in addition to dispensing medications and vaccines, community pharmacies provide services that lead to better health outcomes, lower overall administrative fees, and valuable in-person consultations with a healthcare provider.

To ensure TRICARE beneficiaries maintain access to local pharmacies, we respectfully request answers to the following questions.

1. How is DHA monitoring current and future retail pharmacy participation in the TRICARE Pharmacy program?
2. If future in-network pharmacy participation decreases, what steps will DHA take to ensure adequate access to in-person pharmacy services for TRICARE beneficiaries?
3. Terminating the 2022 pharmacy contracts two months ahead of schedule will likely lead to a disruption of care for TRICARE beneficiaries. What reasons has Express Scripts given DHA for terminating the 2022 contracts early? Please outline what oversight DHA has over Express Scripts, as well as what authority DHA has given Express Scripts to make these contract changes.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Due to the patient access and safety concerns expressed above, we look forward to receiving your response and working with you to

ensure TRICARE beneficiaries continue to receive the utmost care from trusted, local health care professionals.

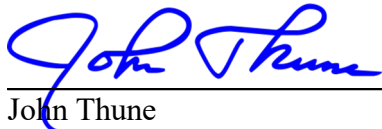
Sincerely,



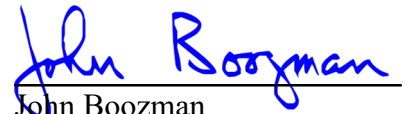
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



John Thune
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



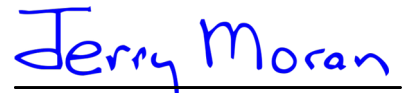
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator

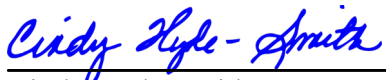



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator




Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

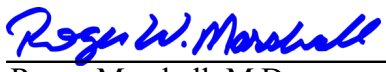

Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator


Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator


Mike Braun
United States Senator


James Lankford
United States Senator


John Hoeven
United States Senator


Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



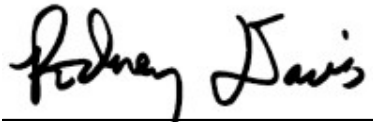
Jason Smith
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



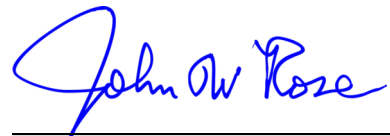
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



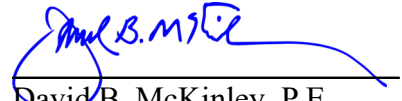
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress




David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



French Hill
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress



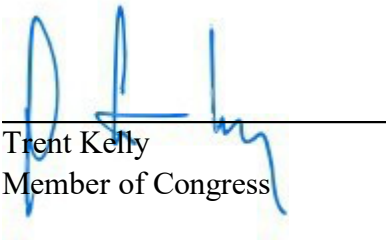
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



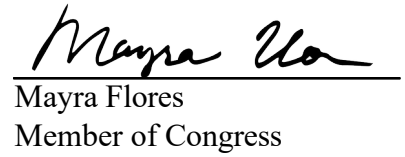
Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



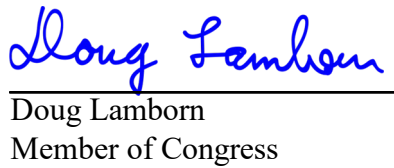
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



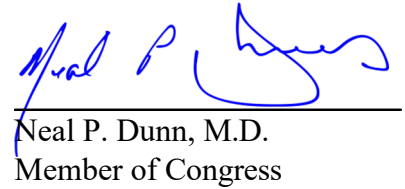
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



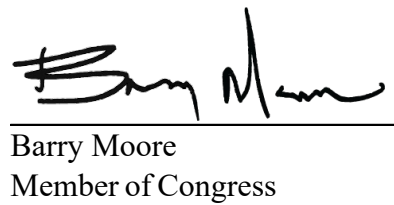
Mayra Flores
Member of Congress



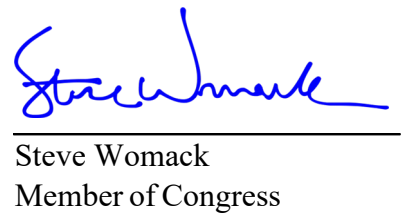
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



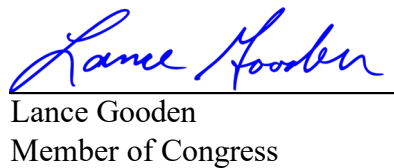
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



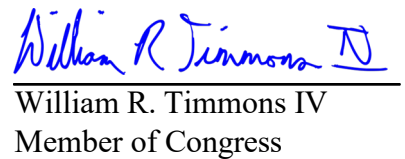
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



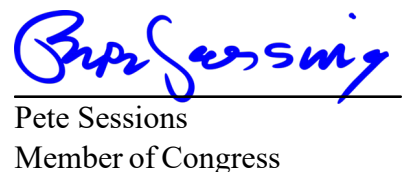
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



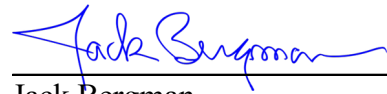
Garret Graves
Member of Congress



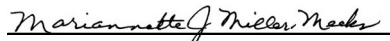
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



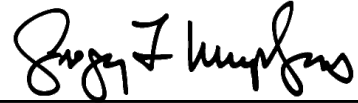
Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



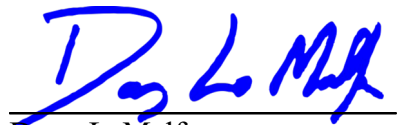
C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



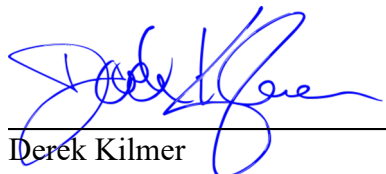
Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



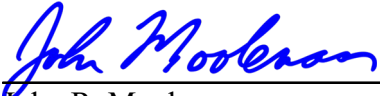
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress




Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Marie Newman
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Pete Stauber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress