

AUSTIN SCOTT
EIGHTH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

WARNER ROBINS OFFICE
230 MARGIE DRIVE, SUITE 500
WARNER ROBINS, GA 31088
478.971.1776 MAIN
478.971.1778 FAX

TIFTON OFFICE
127-B NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
TIFTON, GA 31794
229.396.5175 MAIN
229.396.5179 FAX



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
June 10, 2015

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE,
AND RESEARCH

Dr. Jonathan Woodson
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
1200 Defense Pentagon
Suite 3E1070
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Woodson:

We write today regarding recent changes that have impacted TRICARE beneficiaries' access to compounded medications. It's our understanding that there have been aggressive and deceptive marketing practices targeting TRICARE beneficiaries. Entities like this should be reined in and dealt with in an appropriate matter, while still allowing compounding pharmacies the ability to serve their patients. It is our understanding that the contracted pharmacy vendor would be able to specifically target these bad actors while still allowing community pharmacies operating in the network to provide needed compounded medications.

We understand that revisions to compound drug coverage were formally announced in March by the Department of Defense and implemented on May 1, 2015, then subsequently revised again on May 11, 2015. Due to the most recent May 11 revisions, we have heard from both TRICARE beneficiaries' and the pharmacy owners who serve their healthcare needs that they can no longer receive their compounded medications because certain compound ingredients are no longer reimbursable.

Community pharmacies serve TRICARE beneficiaries across the country and the compounded medications they provide play an important role in patient health by giving prescribers the ability to treat unique medical needs.

We appreciate how difficult a task it must be to run an efficient, but most importantly high quality, health care system for our military personnel. We would respectfully ask that, in addition to your important efforts to eliminate deceptive marketing practices, you investigate the problems we are hearing about related to access to compounded medications to make sure military personnel across the country have the ability to use the pharmacy of their choice for the medications they need. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Walter Jones
Member of Congress