

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 11, 2015

The Honorable Jonathan Woodson, M.D.  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs  
Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness  
The Pentagon  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Secretary Woodson:

We are writing today regarding recent changes in TRICARE billing practices that have greatly impacted beneficiaries' access to compounded medication therapies. We understand these recent changes are in response to deceptive marketing practices conducted by a select few compounders. While we believe deceptive entities should be pursued and dealt with accordingly, TRICARE beneficiaries should not be denied access to compounded medications due to a few bad actors.

The recent changes implemented by the Department of Defense on May 1, 2015, and subsequently revised on May 11, 2015, have restricted TRICARE beneficiaries' access to compounded medications they desperately need. While these changes were created with good intent, they have ultimately removed all access of compounded medications from patients, forcing them to look elsewhere for treatment and relief. Unfortunately, compounded medications are often the last option for many patients, and these changes force them to make difficult decisions, which sometimes involve illegal drug use as a last resort.

It's our understanding the contracted pharmacy vendor is more than capable of targeting deceptive marketing practices without limiting access to compounding pharmacists operating in good faith. Compounding pharmacies serve TRICARE beneficiaries across the country and are a vital resource to treating unique medical needs. The practice of compounding removes the "one size fits all" approach to medical treatment and uses sound medical practice to tailor medications for specific patient needs. With this in mind, the current Department of Defense exclusion list is too restrictive for compounding pharmacists who serve TRICARE beneficiaries with unique needs.


We respectfully ask you to review and revise the current rule changes to ensure military personnel across the country have the ability to use the pharmacy of their choice for the

medications they need while using targeted tools to eliminate current bad actors. Thank you for your service and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



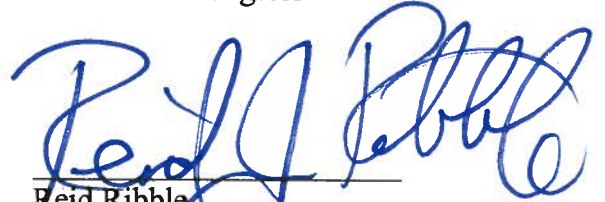
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



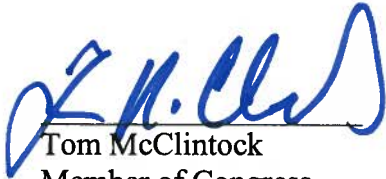
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



Walter Jones  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



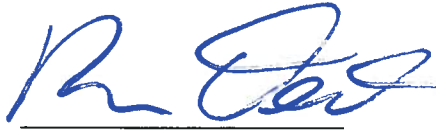
Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress



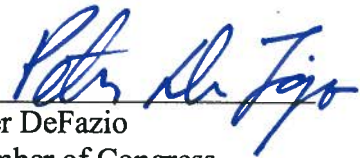
Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress



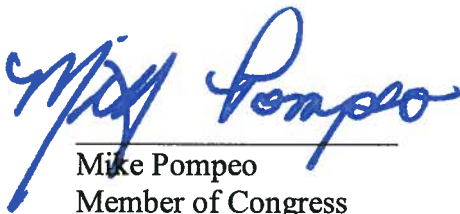
Alexander Mooney  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



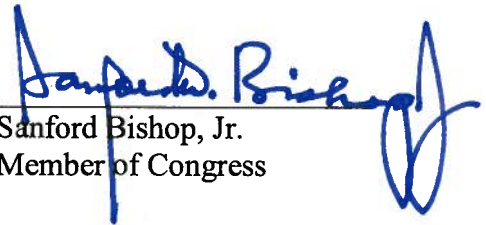
Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



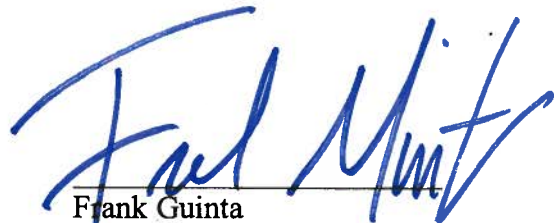
Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress



Rod Blum  
Member of Congress

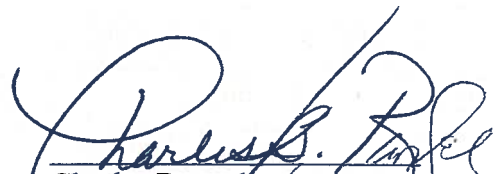


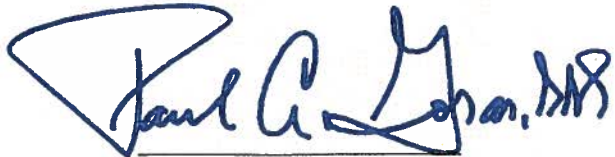
Diane Black  
Member of Congress





Frank Guinta  
Member of Congress


  
Doug Collins  
Member of Congress


  
Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Paul Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

  
Phil Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Crescent Hardy  
Member of Congress