

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 23, 2012

Dr. Jonathon Woodson
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Director of Tricare Management Activity
511 Leesburg Pike
Skyline 5, Suite 810
Falls Church, VA 22041-3251

Dear Dr. Woodson,

We are writing concerning a matter of great importance to Oregon's service members, retirees, and their families. As you are no doubt aware, last week media outlets reported that in select TRICARE West Region markets, TRICARE Prime will only be available within 40 miles of Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs). The entire state of Oregon was reported to be one of the areas targeted for this change.

While this might not have a significant impact in a smaller state, or one with more active-duty military installations, this will have a major impact on Oregon TRICARE users. The only 2 MTFs in Oregon are both located on the coast, leaving tens of thousands of retirees and others with the more expensive TRICARE Standard as their only choice.

We understand that there is concern about the costs associated with medical care for military members and retirees, but this proposal unfairly penalizes residents of select states and areas. In addition, imposing these changes without significant prior notice is simply wrong.

The Americans whose lives you are changing with this proposal have dedicated large portions of their lives to the defense of our nation. In return, we promised them certain benefits, including options for continuous medical care. We owe it to these brave men and women to keep this promise, and we shouldn't saddle them with a disproportionate share of the cost. They have already given enough.

We would appreciate very much the opportunity to speak with you to discuss the facts and rationale behind these decisions and to explore possible alternatives.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senate




Greg Walden
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


Peter Defazio
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Jeff Merkley
United States Senate