

# 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,



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Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



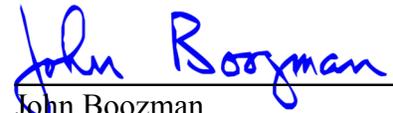
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



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John Thune  
United States Senator



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John Boozman  
United States Senator



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Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



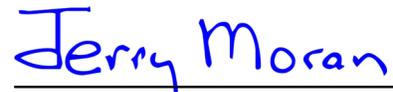
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Steve Daines  
United States Senator



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Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator



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Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



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Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



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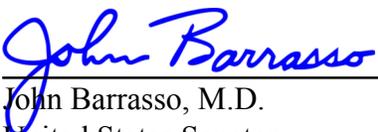
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

  
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



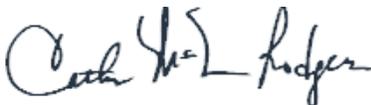
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Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



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Jason Smith  
Member of Congress



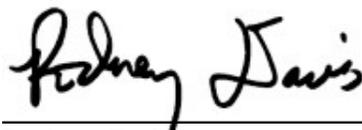
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James Comer  
Member of Congress



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Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



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Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



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Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



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John Rose  
Member of Congress



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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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



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Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



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Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



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Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



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Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



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Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



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Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



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Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



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French Hill  
Member of Congress



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Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



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Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



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Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress



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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



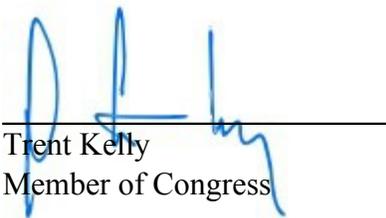
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Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



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Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



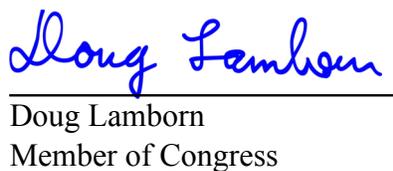
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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



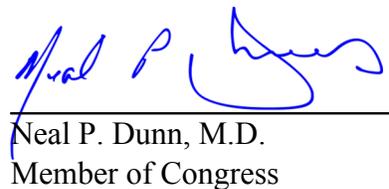
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Mayra Flores  
Member of Congress



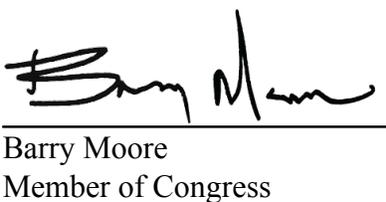
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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



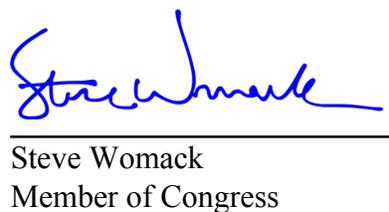
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



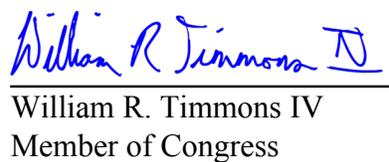
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Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



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Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



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William R. Timmons IV  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



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Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



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



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C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



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Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress



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



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C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



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Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



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



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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Charles J. "Chuck"  
Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



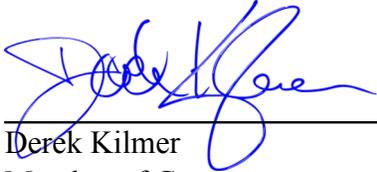
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Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



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Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



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H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



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Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



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



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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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John R. Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



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David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress