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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4602

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As Congress considers further legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge you to consider measures to support our service members, their families and military retirees. By temporarily eliminating the copay for mail order prescriptions through TRICARE, beneficiaries can continue to access their prescription medications at no cost out of pocket while practicing social distancing.

Section 702 of the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act adjusted pharmacy copayments for 2018 through 2027, when the Secretary of Defense will be authorized to set and adjust cost-sharing amounts. For 2020, the copay is \$10 for a 90-day supply of a generic drug and \$29 for a 90-day supply of a brand name drug. However, if a beneficiary picks up their prescription drugs from a Military Treatment Facility, they do not need to pay anything out of pocket.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends staying home and practicing social distancing, TRICARE should similarly incentivize people to follow these guidelines. An easy way to keep people in their homes is to temporarily eliminate the copay for mail order drugs, making the cost the same no matter how the beneficiary receives their medication. Service members, retirees, and their families would no longer need to choose between staying safe and accessing prescription drugs without a copay.

In any upcoming coronavirus relief package, I urge you to consider this change to help TRICARE beneficiaries access their medications without incurring extra cost or endangering their health. I appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you for your service and leadership during this national crisis.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress