

STATE OF KANSAS

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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

October 21, 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,

Kansas is proud of its historic relationship with the Department of Defense and our commitment to military personnel. Kansas is home to over 22,000 Department of Defense retirees, over 20,000 active-duty service members, over 10,000 National Guard and Reserve service members, and over 3,000 surviving spouses. A large number of these Kansans—from all corners of the state—receive health benefits through the TRICARE program.

I am writing to request immediate action to ensure our TRICARE beneficiaries retain access to retail and community pharmacies that provide critical health services.

Express Scripts, which manages pharmacy benefits for TRICARE patients, has announced it will reduce reimbursement rates in 2023 and end its 2022 contracts prior to the end of the year. These changes will leave many pharmacies unable to participate in the TRICARE program, impacting access for beneficiaries and undercutting local and independent pharmacies that make up three quarters of rural pharmacies.

There's no doubt that these changes will adversely affect our military personnel's ability to access care. To ensure that TRICARE patients continue to have access to essential health services in their own communities, I urge you to work with Express Scripts, providers, and beneficiaries to clearly articulate plan changes and provide continuous coverage to our retirees and veterans.

Our military service members and veterans have sacrificed so much to protect this nation and our freedoms. It is our duty to ensure that they receive the care they deserve. I look forward to working with you to keep this commitment to our service members.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Kelly".

Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas