GREG WALDEN
SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON
DEPUTY WHIP

ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
CHAIRMAN
ENERGY AND POWER

E-MAIL VIA WEBSITE:
http://walden.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
2182 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3702
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-6730

DISTRICT OFFICES:
14 N CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 112
MEDFORD, OR 97501
TELEPHONE: (541) 776-4646
TOLL FREE: (800) 533-3303

1051 NW BOND STREET, SUITE 400
BEND, OR 97701
TELEPHONE: (541) 389-4408

1211 WASHINGTON AVENUE
LA GRANDE, OR 97850
TELEPHONE: (541) 624-2400

October 18, 2012

Dr. Jonathan Woodson
Assistant Secretary of Defense (HA)
Tricare Management Activity
5111 Leesburg Pike
Skyline 5, Suite 810
Falls Church, VA 22041-3251

Dear Dr. Woodson:

Our nation owes the best care possible to the men and women who wear the uniform. We owe our freedom to them. This is why I am very concerned about reports that the incoming contactor for the TRICARE West Region, United Healthcare, does not plan to continue the current TRICARE Prime service area along the Interstate 5 corridor that has been provided by the current contractor, TriWest. I understand that United Healthcare plans to offer Prime to beneficiaries living within 40 miles of a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) only.

Since there are only two MTF's in Oregon—both Coast Guard clinics on the coast—this change would eliminate the Prime option for the thousands of TRICARE beneficiaries in Oregon who rely on it for medical care.

I also fear that, with the elimination of the Prime option, the network of providers who support this option may no longer be able or willing to provide services to TRICARE beneficiaries. My constituents have informed me that they prefer the caliber of care and ease of obtaining in-network services provided by their TRICARE Prime primary care managers over the services offered by the TRICARE Standard option.

As much as I am dismayed by this impending reduction of health care services to active duty service members, reservists, Guardsmen, retirees, and their families—those who have given a large part of their working lives to service in our nation's armed forces—I am concerned as to when you plan to make this change in service known to these patriots.

If you are planning to make these changes, but are waiting to inform the TRICARE beneficiaries for whatever reason, I encourage you to make the announcement immediately. These changes could have a significant impact on the lives of TRICARE beneficiaries in my district, the state of Oregon, and in the TRICARE west region, and affected service members and veterans should be made aware right away.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity.

Best regards,

Greg Walden

Greg Walden
Member of Congress