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Support Our Veterans - Cosponsor the Keep Faith with TRICARE Prime Act

Dear Colleague:

In October 2013, more than 171,000 military retirees across the United States who lived outside 40 miles of a military installation lost access to TRICARE Prime as a result of a Department of Defense (DOD) policy change. While our affected constituents were automatically switched to TRICARE Standard, many retirees are struggling to cover the increased costs due to their fixed incomes.

In 2013, I introduced the Keep Faith with TRICARE Prime Act (H.R. 1971) to ensure affected beneficiaries could continue their enrollment in TRICARE Prime contingent upon them residing in the same location when they chose to remain on the Prime program. On June 14, 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (H.R. 1960) containing my legislation H.R. 1971 by a bipartisan vote of 315-108. Unfortunately, the final FY14 NDAA signed into law only allowed for beneficiaries residing 100 miles from an installation the ability keep their TRICARE Prime.

This year, I am reintroducing the Keep Faith with TRICARE Prime Act to ensure all affected military retirees can keep their TRICARE Prime. My legislation provides a one-time election for all retirees, to include more than 4,000 Minnesotans, removed from TRICARE Prime before December 25, 2013, simply for living outside of 100 miles from a military treatment facility. These veterans made retirement decisions on the Pentagon's promise of a healthcare benefit only to be involuntarily removed due to the DOD policy change. They deserve better. We must ensure this commitment is kept which is what the Keep Faith with TRICARE Prime Act accomplishes.

Please join me in keeping faith with our retired veterans by supporting legislation that would preserve the retirement benefits they have earned through service and dedication to their county. If you have any questions, or wish to cosponsor the Keep Faith with TRICARE Prime Act, please contact Ryan Silverberg in my office at ryan.silverberg@mail.house.gov or 5-2271.

Sincerely,

John Kline

JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress