

107 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2605

RICK LARSEN
2ND DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

DISTRICT OFFICES:
104 WEST MAGNOLIA, SUITE 206
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225
(360) 733-4500

2930 WETMORE AVENUE, SUITE 9F
EVERETT, WA 98201
(425) 252-3188

E-Mail: Rick.Larsen@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/larsen>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4702

ARMED SERVICES

SMALL BUSINESS

March 5, 2009

Mr. Bill F. Schrier, MSG Ret.
The American Legion
8878 Peavey Rd, Trlr 38
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Bill:

Thank you for contacting me about TRICARE coverage for military personnel. There has recently been some confusion regarding a recent Congressional Budget Office report on TRICARE benefits and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

In December 2008, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released "Budget Options for Health Care, Volume I". This report presented 115 options for reducing federal spending on health care. A small portion of this report discussed increasing out-of-pocket health care costs for TRICARE beneficiaries. Please know that the CBO has no policymaking authority to increase TRICARE fees. The CBO report was neither ordered nor endorsed by Congress or the Obama Administration.

I believe that TRICARE should be affordable for service members and military retirees, and I oppose attempts to increase costs for TRICARE beneficiaries. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have worked to reverse TRICARE fee increases proposed by the Bush Administration over the last several years. You will be happy to know I am also a co-sponsor of the Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act (H.R. 816), which would permanently prohibit the Department of Defense from raising TRICARE fees and copayments.

I look forward to working with the new administration to protect and enhance TRICARE for military service members and their families in the 111th Congress. As your representative in Congress, I will keep working to honor the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our country.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me and please feel free to continue to contact me about issues important to you.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
United States Representative
Washington State, 2nd District