

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Burgess,

On behalf of the 380,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I am writing to express MOAA's appreciation for your strong support of the military community by introducing The Rehabilitative Health Parity for Military Beneficiaries Act (H.R. 1705).

Under the TRICARE program, physical therapy is a covered benefit that is used to improve, restore, or maintain function, or to minimize or prevent deterioration of function, of a patient. Many tools are utilized to provide this life enhancing therapy.

Recently, TRICARE has arbitrarily denied one specific tool (a horse) used to provide this therapy that is medically necessary, effective and less costly than other physical therapy tools.

Your legislation will prevent arbitrary determinations barring otherwise qualifying therapy. By including examples of therapeutic tools, including a horse, bolster, ball, and balance board, the law would make it more difficult to make such arbitrary exclusion decisions. Additionally, this law would also protect families who are currently being covered from being retroactively denied coverage based on the physical therapy tool.

MOAA applauds you for championing this initiative and pledges our strong support to secure enactment of The Rehabilitative Health Parity for Military Beneficiaries Act.

Sincerely, *& Best Regards!*

*Norbert Ryan*