

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

11 February 2015

The Veterans TRICARE Choice Act

Endorsed last Congress by The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), The Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), and The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), as well as 83 bipartisan cosponsors

Did you know that many of our veterans are denied healthcare options which are available to those who have never served in the armed forces?

The issue at hand: All TRICARE covered veterans, specifically retired service members and currently serving reservists/guardsmen who have TRICARE coverage, are prevented from having the option to make contributions to a Health Savings Account (HSA).

Military retirees and those in the Reserves or National Guard are often eligible for health care coverage through their current employers. One form of coverage offered by the employers comes in the form of a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), giving the employee the ability to make individual contributions to a tax-favored HSA and the ability to benefit from possible employer contributions. However, an individual who has TRICARE coverage is ineligible by law to make contributions or to receive any employer contributions to an HSA.

The Veterans TRICARE Choice Act does two things that will correct this problem. It amends the Internal Revenue Code to permit TRICARE-eligible individuals to enroll in HSA-eligible health plans and it amends federal law to grant TRICARE-eligible veterans the ability to freeze and unfreeze TRICARE eligibility. In doing so, the Veterans TRICARE Choice Act preserves the intent of tax-favored HSAs and allows these veterans equal access to private health coverage and the right to return to TRICARE in the future.

As veterans, we understand the importance of ensuring that our service members have equitable access to the best healthcare options for themselves and their families. To become a cosponsor of the Veterans TRICARE Choice Act, please contact Nathaniel Johnson with Rep. Stewart's office at nathaniel.johnson@mail.house.gov or Christine Wagner with Rep. Gabbard's office at Christine.wagner@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress