The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000  

Dear Secretary Austin:

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to supporting the men and women who have served our nation in uniform. As you continue working to ensure these individuals have access to the healthcare they have rightfully earned, we urge you to require TRICARE to cover the cost of up to eight over-the-counter at-home COVID-19 tests per month.

The coronavirus pandemic has deeply impacted the nation, and it is critical we continue working together to mitigate its continued spread. In order to increase access to at-home COVID-19 tests, the Biden-Harris administration has directed private insurers to cover the cost of eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per person per month. To further broaden access to testing across the nation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has recently announced it will require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow Medicare recipients to receive up to eight tests per month at no cost.

These orders have been crucial steps in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and have significantly expanded access for Americans. However, millions of TRICARE beneficiaries have been left out of these policies, with no other option but to pay out-of-pocket for at-home tests.

Under current regulations, TRICARE does not cover the cost of at-home COVID-19 tests. TRICARE will only provide coverage of tests that are ordered by a TRICARE-authorized provider for a medically necessary purpose. All other reasons - such as personal concern, returning to work, or travel - are not currently covered.

We urge you to bring TRICARE policy into parity with the latest administration orders. To protect individuals from the ongoing COVID-19 variants, we urge you require TRICARE to provide full coverage of over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid tests to TRICARE beneficiaries at no cost.

We share your commitment to ensuring TRICARE beneficiaries have access to the highest quality care, including access to free at-home rapid COVID-19 testing. Thank you for your efforts, and we look forward to working with you to address this issue.
Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Elaine Luria  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Tom O’Halleran  
Member of Congress
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress