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AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 2016

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
SR-228  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
SR-228  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain and Senator Reed:

I applaud the Committee's efforts to address much needed reform of the TRICARE system. Representing Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, 20,000 Guard and Reservists and several hundred thousand dependents, the efficient management of TRICARE and the timely delivery of its services is vital to our community. I should also note that the Personnel Subcommittee staff of Allen Edwards and Samantha Clark have been helpful to me as focus on TRICARE reform.

As the Committee considers its options, I respectfully request that you consider the following proposals for inclusion in the 2017 NDAA:

A provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to establish high performance military-civilian integrated health delivery systems through partnerships with local or regional health systems in the private sector. DOD would accomplish these partnerships either through memoranda of understanding or contracts between military treatment facilities and private sector health systems, such as health maintenance organizations, regional health organizations, integrated health systems, and healthcare centers of excellence. This provision would require DOD to incorporate value-based reimbursement methodologies into any memoranda of understanding or contracts to reimburse private sector entities for medical services provided to covered beneficiaries.

A provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to improve access to care in military treatment facilities through contracts with private sector entities. These contracts would augment the delivery of health care services at military treatment facilities that have limited or restricted

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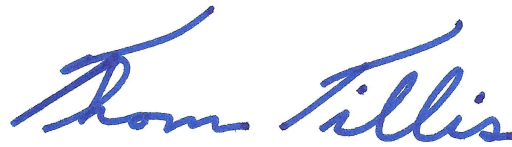
ability to provide health care services, such as primary care or expanded-hours urgent care. Contracts would be performance-based and designed to purchase improvement in health outcomes for covered beneficiaries seeking health care services in military treatment facilities.

A provision requiring DOD to re-compete medical support contracts for the TRICARE program to improve access to care, improve health outcomes, improve the experience of care, and lower per capita health costs. These contracts would be competitively procured and automatically renewable (evergreen). DOD would ensure that the TRICARE Program included a combination of local, regional, and national contracts to develop individual and institutional high-performing networks of health care providers.

A provision authorizing DOD to enter into memoranda of agreement with academic medical institutions, where feasible, to establish medical education training affiliations with local military medical treatment facilities that could share training facilities, staffing and material resources.

North Carolina is uniquely suited to serve as a national model for these initiatives. Fort Bragg's Womack Army Medical Center is one of the largest hospitals in the military. It sits within easy driving distance of four medical schools (Duke, UNC, ECU and Campbell) and major civilian healthcare centers. The fusion of these assets would create a holistic care system for active duty soldiers, reservists and their dependents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thom Tillis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thom Tillis  
U.S. Senator