

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

March 27, 2014

Mrs. Courtenay J. Culp
Executive Director
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland
PO Box 482
10707 Montrose Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896-0482

Dear Mrs. Culp:

I am writing to advise you of my continuing efforts on your organization's behalf.

Enclosed is a letter to Jonathan Woodson, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, that has been signed by the entire Maryland congressional delegation concerning the final rules governing TRICARE providers. I hope this will be helpful in ensuring that the Department of Defense adequately addresses this issue in its final regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Humphrey in my district office at 30-424-3501.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Jonathan Woodson
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Dr. Woodson:

We wanted to bring to your attention the concerns raised by the University System of Maryland Provosts about the Interim Final Rule (IFR) regarding new federal restrictions on the practice of professional counselors. We appreciate the February 5, 2014 staff level briefing and the willingness of those working on the Final Rule to discuss our concerns about the IFR with our staff.

As discussed in the briefing, we are concerned because the majority of programs that train professional counselors in Maryland are psychology programs and therefore ineligible under the Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) accreditation standards utilized in the IFR. We hope that the final rule will take into consideration the negative impact this would have on the Universities in Maryland and their graduates who are currently providing mental health services in TRICARE. We are also concerned about the health and well-being of our service men and women. By no longer allowing providers with psychology degrees to participate in the TRICARE program we are worried that the mental healthcare needs of our constituents may suffer.

We hope that you will keep these comments in mind as the Final Rule is developed. Please keep us informed as the Department of Defense moves through this process and completes the final rule.

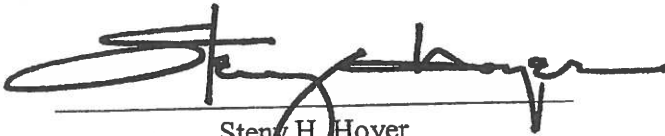
Sincerely,



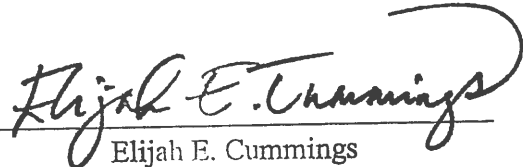
Barbara Mikulski
U.S. Senator



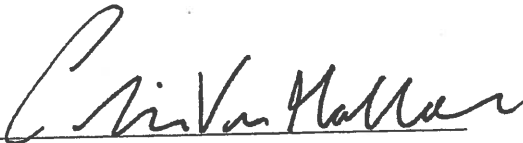
Ben Cardin
U.S. Senator



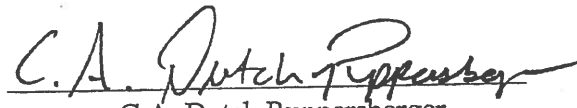
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



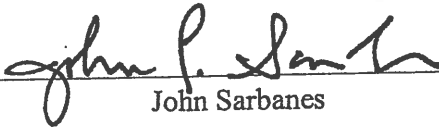
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. William E. Kirwan, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland