



November 4, 2024

The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Collins, Tester, Capito, and Warner:

The Military Coalition (TMC) represents more than 5.5 million service members, veterans, their families, and survivors. One of TMC's top priorities is ensuring TRICARE coverage keeps up with evolving treatment protocols and benchmarks established by Medicare and top commercial plans. Thank you so much for your [recent efforts](#) to ensure TRICARE policy is updated to cover LEQEMBI, an FDA-approved drug shown to reduce the rate of disease progression and slow cognitive and functional decline in adults with Alzheimer's disease (AD).

TRICARE's outdated policy excludes coverage of monoclonal antibodies, including LEQEMBI, even though the drug has had full FDA-approval since July 6, 2023. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Medicare coverage for LEQEMBI more than a year ago. Federal employees also have access to LEQEMBI under the BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program, a key benchmark plan for TRICARE coverage.

TRICARE policy leaves Prime and Select beneficiaries with no coverage for LEQEMBI. TRICARE for Life beneficiaries have partial coverage through Medicare but face approximately \$365 per month in cost sharing that does not accrue to TRICARE's annual out-of-pocket cap. While some beneficiaries can manage this expense, it likely puts LEQEMBI out of reach for many military retiree families facing an AD diagnosis.

CMS policy changes often drive updates for other health plans and there can be gaps in coverage while TRICARE catches up to Medicare policy. However, the parity gap for LEQEMBI coverage has persisted for 16 months with no indication an update is pending. Treatment for AD is most effective when administered early – delays can result in irreversible disease progression – making this prolonged TRICARE coverage gap particularly egregious.

We appreciate the Senate version of the FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act includes Sec. 5744 that notes TRICARE's role in facilitating timely and equitable beneficiary access to novel therapeutics, including monoclonal antibodies approved by the FDA for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, and a report requirement addressing TRICARE's non-coverage of LEQEMBI.

TRICARE is a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustains the all-volunteer force. The commitment and sacrifices made by servicemembers, retirees, their families and survivors merit a world-class health care benefit. We appreciate your work to update TRICARE coverage policy to include LEQEMBI, a proven treatment for AD, and stand by to support your efforts.

Thank you for your oversight of the TRICARE program and continued support of our military community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack DuTill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President,
The Military Coalition

CC: Lieutenant General Telita Crosland, Director, Defense Health Agency
Ms. Seileen Mullen – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
The Honorable Jack Reed – Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services
The Honorable Rodger Wicker – Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Armed Services
The Honorable Mike Rodgers – Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services
The Honorable Adam Smith – Ranking Member, House Committee on Armed Services

See attached list of organizations

The Military Coalition:

Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)

The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

AMVETS

Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, United States Coast Guard (CWOA)

Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA)

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)

Gold Star Wives of America

Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)

Marine Corps League (MCL)

Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)

Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)

Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America (NCOA)

National Military Family Association (NMFA)

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

The Enlisted Association (TREA)

The Independence Fund (TIF)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)

U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association (CPOA)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)