



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 9 2001

Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is an interim response to the reporting requirements in the Conference Report accompanying the Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (106-945), and the House Armed Services Committee Report (106-616) regarding TRICARE enrollment. The Conference Report requests that the Department submit a plan for universal, continuous enrollment for all eligible beneficiaries beginning in Fiscal Year 2002. The House Armed Services Committee Report requests that the Department submit a report on the study of benefits to be gained by requiring eligible beneficiaries to enroll in any of the Department's TRICARE programs.

The Department is in the process of compiling data and conferring with beneficiary groups regarding the complex issues involved, particularly with respect to TRICARE For Life. I regret the report could not be completed by March 30, 2001. I anticipate the Department will forward this report to you by August 2001.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Jarrett Clinton", is positioned above the typed name.

J. Jarrett Clinton, MD, MPH
Acting Assistant Secretary

cc:
Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Democrat