

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4101

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that a TRICARE beneficiary receives written notice of any change to benefits received by the beneficiary under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that a TRICARE beneficiary receives written notice of any change to benefits received by the beneficiary under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Timely Information  
5 Management Enforcement Act” or the “TIME Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF WRITTEN NOTICE OF CHANGE TO**  
2 **TRICARE BENEFITS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United  
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1097c  
5 the following new section:

6 **“§ 1097d. TRICARE program: notice of change to ben-**  
7 **efits**

8 “(a) PROVISION OF NOTICE.—(1) If the Secretary  
9 changes any benefits provided by the TRICARE program  
10 to covered beneficiaries, the Secretary shall provide indi-  
11 viduals described in paragraph (2) with written notice ex-  
12 plaining such changes.

13 “(2) The individuals described by this paragraph are  
14 covered beneficiaries and providers participating in the  
15 TRICARE program who may be affected by a change cov-  
16 ered by a notification under paragraph (1).

17 “(3) The Secretary shall provide notice under para-  
18 graph (1) through both mail and electronic means.

19 “(b) TIMING OF NOTICE.—The Secretary shall pro-  
20 vide notice under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) by the  
21 earlier of the following dates:

22 “(1) The date that the Secretary determines  
23 would afford individuals described in paragraph (2)  
24 of such subsection adequate time to understand and  
25 respond to the change covered by the notification.

1           “(2) 90 days before the date on which the  
2           change covered by the notification becomes effective.

3           “(c) DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not delegate  
4 the authority under this section to any individual who is  
5 not an officer or employee of the Federal Government.”.

6           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
7 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
8 after the item relating to section 1097c the following new  
9 item:

“1097d. TRICARE program: notice of change to benefits.”.

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