Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2010

The Honorable Louise Slaughter
Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Slaughter:

The House Democratic leadership asked our committees to review HR 3590 and HR 4872 to assess the impact of the bills on the health care provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our reviews of HR 3590 and HR 4872 lead us to believe that the intent of the bills was never to undermine or change the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs operation of their health care programs or interfere with the care that our service members receive under TRICARE. However, we commit to look into this issue further to ensure that no unintended consequences may arise and to take any legislative action that may be necessary.

HR 3590, as drafted, does not specifically mention that TRICARE coverage meets the individual responsibility requirement, but such coverage would satisfy the requirements of this bill. To affirm that this is the case, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed HR 4887, the TRICARE Affirmation Act, which provides assurances to the American people that care provided to those in the military and their families, as well as military retirees under age 65 and their families, would indeed meet the requirement for coverage.

The members of our nation's military sacrifice much to defend us all. We commit to these dedicated service members and their families as well as our veterans that we will protect the quality healthcare they receive.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

IKE SKELTON
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services

GEORGE MILLER
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor

SANDER LEVIN
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means

HENRY WAXMAN
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

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