

Dear Representative or Senator:

I am a recipient of TRICARE and (I or my spouse) is stationed at _____

I am writing as your constituent because I'm concerned about access to care and coverage for prenatal and childbirth services. I chose to have my care at (Birth Center Name) birth center because they provide excellent care resulting in healthy babies and lower cesarean section rates. These healthy outcomes save TRICARE dollars!

The midwives provided the support and education I needed during my pregnancy and the birth of my child. I researched care providers in my area and chose the birth center because of the care and support they provide.

However, I have been informed that the payment amount TRICARE is paying to the birth center facility has been cut by more than one-half! Due to a new method of calculating the payment that is based on the time I stay in the birth center, their payment will be drastically cut.

Payment for TRICARE services should be based on the value and effectiveness of the care, not the time that it takes! The birth center has a cesarean rate of (6%) and a successful breastfeeding rate of (95%) (put in your own stats here). Studies of birth center care of women covered by Medicaid show that preterm birth and low birth weight births are less than half of national rates for women who receive birth center care compared to women with usual care.

The birth center saves TRICARE money and should be paid a fair amount for this excellent care.

Please demand that TRICARE reverse this new payment policy that will limit my ability to choose the high quality maternity care that I desire.

Sincerely,