

JERRY MORAN
KANSAS

521 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1606
P: (202) 224-6521
F: (202) 228-6966
moran.senate.gov

United States Senate

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April 21, 2020

Lieutenant General Ronald Place
Director, Defense Health Agency
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Falls Church, VA
22042-5101

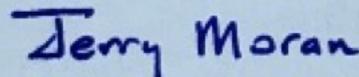
Dear Lieutenant General Place:

I write to express my strong support for providing military members and their dependents with proper treatment for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our military members utilize TRICARE benefits that provide ABA therapy to their children. ABA therapy programs are designed to increase language and communication skills, improve attention and mitigate behavioral challenges. Typically, military children receive ABA from a board-certified behavior analyst in a brick and mortar location.

Military members in Kansas have contacted me to share their frustration with being denied telehealth services for ABA during the COVID-19 crisis. Like most states, Kansas is currently under a shelter in place policy, which is preventing children from accessing their typical in-person sessions. The Defense Health Agency has responded to this issue by allowing Board Certified Behavioral Analysts and assistant behavior analysts to provide unlimited guidance to parents and caregivers, but disallows a TRICARE beneficiary from receiving ABA therapy through telehealth.

I urge you to review the ABA Telemedicine policy and allow TRICARE beneficiaries to receive ABA telehealth care for the duration of the COVID-19 presidential emergency declaration that was issued on March 13, 2020. We are living in uncertain times, and extraordinary measures must be taken to provide for the quality and timely care of our service members and their children.

Very truly yours,



Jerry Moran