The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Joint Explanatory Statement, Page 449, accompanying H.R. 6157, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 115–245), requests the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to submit a spending plan for any Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 designated carryover funds.

A total of $315,218,500.00 in unobligated FY 2018 Defense Health Program (DHP) Operation and Maintenance (O&M) appropriation funds is available for carryover from FY 2018 into FY 2019. The funds will be used to pay for private sector health care ($315,218,500). The DHP O&M one percent carryover authority continues to provide the capability to address unanticipated emergent funding shortfalls during the FY. Examples of the use of carryover funds in previous FYs include: private sector health care, support to our Wounded Warriors, and sustainment, restoration and modernization of the Military Health System components’ medical facilities. The carryover authority continues to support our Service members and their families.

Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families. Similar letters have been sent to the other congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,

James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

cc:  
The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

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James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness  

cc:  
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Vice Chairman
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

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James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

cc:  
The Honorable William M. “Mac” Thornberry  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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James N. Stewart  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

cc:  
The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member