OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS
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TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

JUN 27 2008

Tony L. Berg, M.D.
President
South Dakota Medical Association
P.O. Box 7406
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7406

Dear Dr. Berg:

As we celebrate our nation's independence this July 4th, we want to take a moment to thank you for helping us deliver world-class health care to those who protect and defend that independence. As you know, America's sons and daughters have been called upon in ever greater numbers to support the Global War on Terrorism and other operations around the world. Working in concert with our civilian partners, the Military Health System honors the dedication and sacrifice of our service members by ensuring access to quality health care–keeping our forces fit and ready to serve, and taking care of their families left behind.

Over the last several years, our national survey of physicians located in TRICARE market areas showed civilian physicians' awareness and acceptance of TRICARE to be fairly high in most locations. However, there is always a need for more providers, and we asked state medical associations to assist us in our outreach efforts.

We are pleased to report that you have made a difference. There are 8,653 providers in your state who are either in the TRICARE network, or are accepting TRICARE beneficiaries. That represents an improvement of 2,990 providers in the past year. Please pass along my personal thanks to your membership for their vital role in taking care of America's heroes–the people making sacrifices to keep our country strong and safe.

Sincerely,

Elder Granger
Major General, MC, USA
Deputy Director