

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2018

Hon. Heather Wilson, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Air Force
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

Dear Secretary Wilson,

We are contacting you regarding the U.S. Air Force's ongoing evaluation of the drug commonly known as Truvada for use by pilots on active flight status.

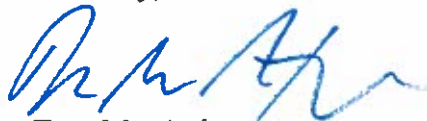
As you may know, Truvada is a medication that is used as a pre-exposure prophylaxis treatment (PrEP) to reduce the risk of contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) daily use of PrEP can lower the risk of contracting HIV from sexual contact by more than 90 percent. As such, the use of Truvada and other PrEP medications can dramatically reduce the risk of contracting HIV for individuals at greater risk of exposure and reduce overall rates of HIV infection.

Over the past few years both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy have adopted policies to accommodate the use of this medication by pilots on active flight status. However, since Truvada is not currently on the Air Force's list of approved medications, pilots must obtain an aeromedical waiver to take Truvada. Recent reports indicate that these waivers are rarely if ever granted. This has left many pilots speculating as to why the Department has not made accommodations similar to the other branches of service.

At a time when reports indicate that the Air Force's pilot shortage has swelled to roughly 2,000 pilots, we believe it is even more important for the Department to resolve this issue in a way that will address the health concerns of affected pilots and maintain the highest standards of readiness.

As such, we respectfully request an update on the Air Forces evaluation of Truvada and encourage the Department to quickly resolve this issue in order to better protect the health of these airmen and facilitate their continued service to our nation.

Sincerely,



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



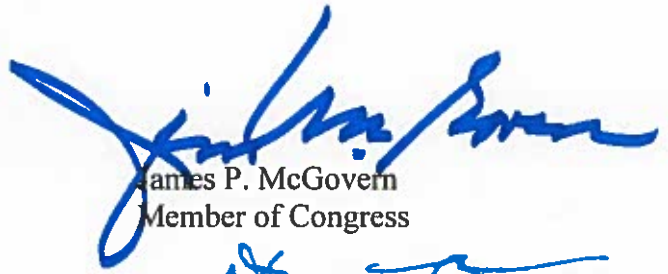
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



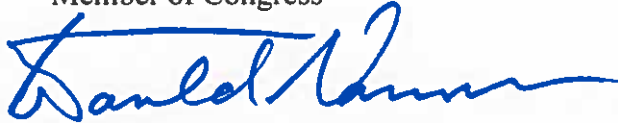
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



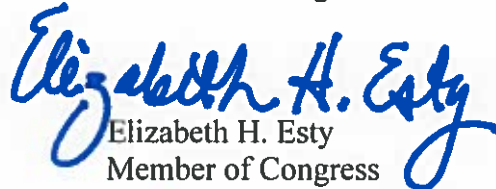
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



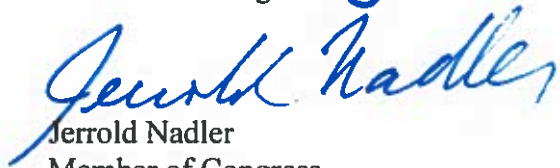
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress