

**Full Text of TRICARE for Kids Provision in HR 4310,
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013,
as signed by President on January 2, 2013**

SEC. 735. STUDY ON HEALTH CARE AND RELATED SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study on the health care and related support provided by the Secretary to dependent children.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A comprehensive review of the policies of the Secretary and the TRICARE program with respect to providing pediatric care.

(2) An assessment of access to pediatric health care by dependent children in appropriate settings.

(3) An assessment of access to specialty care by dependent children, including care for children with special health care needs.

(4) A comprehensive review and analysis of reimbursement under the TRICARE program for pediatric care.

(5) An assessment of the adequacy of the ECHO Program in meeting the needs of dependent children with extraordinary health care needs.

(6) An assessment of the adequacy of care management for dependent children with special health care needs.

(7) An assessment of the support provided through other Department of Defense or military department programs and policies that support the physical and behavioral health of dependent children, including children with special health care needs.

(8) Mechanisms for linking dependent children with special health care needs with State and local community resources, including children's hospitals and providers of pediatric specialty care.

(9) Strategies to mitigate the impact of frequent relocations related to military service on the continuity of health care services for dependent children, including children with special health and behavioral health care needs.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the study under subsection (a), including—

(1) the findings of the study;

(2) a plan to improve and continuously monitor the access of dependent children to quality health care; and

(3) any recommendations for legislation that the Secretary considers necessary to maintain the highest quality of health care for dependent children.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “dependent children” means the children of members of the Armed Forces who are covered beneficiaries under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The term “ECHO Program” means the Extended Care Health Option under subsections (d) through (f) of section 1079 of title 10, United States Code.