



Federal Register Document on Extension:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/10/2026-06913/extension-of-the-tricare-childbirth-and-breastfeeding-support-demonstration>

We need ALL HANDS ON DECK! Submit a comment NOW and let them know that this demonstration is important, impactful, and share your story!!!

**Step 1:** Familiarize yourself with the extension. Highlight include:

1. The CBSD extension will run from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2031. The comment period will end on May 11, 2026.
2. No changes or inclusions are part of this updated federal register.
3. **Comment period closes on May 11, 2026.**

**Step 2:** Submit a comment using the below link.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/10/2026-06913/extension-of-the-tricare-childbirth-and-breastfeeding-support-demonstration#open-comment>

Or

Click this link:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/10/2026-06913/extension-of-the-tricare-childbirth-and-breastfeeding-support-demonstration>

Select "Submit a Public Comment" (Green button on the top right of the page)

Include all or some of the public comment messaging below. We encourage you to include your own personal and/or professional experience with this demonstration in your comment, as recommended within the copy below.

## **Public Comment Message:**

I am writing in strong support of the Extension of the TRICARE Childbirth and Breastfeeding Support Demonstration announced by the Department of Defense on April 10, 2026. This program provides essential services that have been shown to improve birth outcomes, enhance maternal and infant health, and positively shape postpartum experiences for military families.

Access to childbirth and breastfeeding support professionals—including doulas, lactation consultants, and other trained providers—has a well-documented impact on reducing interventions, increasing breastfeeding success, and improving overall satisfaction with the birthing experience. For military families, who often face unique stressors such as relocation, deployment, and limited support networks, these services are not simply beneficial—they are critical.

While I am encouraged to see this demonstration extended, I join the Military Birth Resource Network and the Postpartum Coalition in urging important modifications to strengthen and expand the program's impact.

First, the demonstration must be expanded to include births at military treatment facilities (MTFs) across the globe. The current structure disproportionately disadvantages active duty servicewomen and families stationed overseas, many of whom have no alternative options for where they can give birth. Without access to covered support services in these settings, these families are excluded from the very benefits this program is designed to provide. Equity in access must be a central priority.

Second, reimbursement rates for providers must be adjusted to reflect fair and market rates. The majority of this work is performed by individuals who identify as women, and it is essential that their labor is valued appropriately. Inadequate compensation not only undermines the sustainability of this workforce but also limits the availability of qualified providers willing to serve military communities.

Finally, the program should expand the range of accepted certifications for participating providers. The military community is diverse, and the provider workforce should reflect that diversity to ensure culturally competent, respectful care. Broadening certification pathways will help build a more inclusive network of support professionals and improve access for families from varied cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

This demonstration has already shown meaningful benefits. With thoughtful improvements, it has the potential to become a model for comprehensive, equitable maternal care within the military health system.

**\*\*\*INCLUDE YOUR PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THIS DEMONSTRATION HERE\*\*\***

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and for your continued commitment to supporting military families during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]