



July 24, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Grassley, and Ranking Member Wyden,

We the undersigned organizations representing clinical care providers and advocacy organizations are writing to express our deep concern with the fundamental changes to Medicare Part B that the committee is considering.

As the committee is aware, Part B medicines are vital to treating seniors and individuals living with conditions that require intensive management, such as cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, macular degeneration, Crohn's disease, or immunodeficiency diseases. This coverage is critical, and several of the policies the committee is considering could have a negative impact on patient access.

These policies include inclusion of copay coupons in the calculation of provider reimbursement. These programs provide vital assistance to patients facing high out of pocket costs and their inclusion in the ASP calculation could have unintended consequences for patient access. This policy change will decrease reimbursement to providers and could challenge the viability of practices, especially those in rural or underserved areas, potentially causing closures, consolidations, and other access to care issues. Additionally, the proposed cap on provider reimbursement for these medications fail to take into account the specialized storage, handling, and patient monitoring requirements for these complex therapies.

Finally, these policies are in addition to the continuation of sequester cuts that many providers already face, as well as the threatened lowering of reimbursement that would come from the proposed International Pricing Index.

Policies the committee is considering put program costs before the health of patients living with serious illness, and rely on Medicare Part B. These policies are aimed at reducing government costs, without addressing the needs of beneficiaries. We therefore strongly urge the committee to reconsider.

Sincerely,
(104 signers continued below)

Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research
AIDS Delaware, Inc.
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA)
American Behcet's Disease Association
Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. (AZBio)
Arkansas Rheumatology Association
Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)
Association of Women in Rheumatology (AWIR)
Biocom
BioCT
BioKansas
Bioscience Association of West Virginia
BioUtah
Brain Injury Association of Delaware
Breast Health Collaborative of Texas
California Life Sciences Association (CLSA)
CancerCare
Caregiver Action Network
Caregiver Voices United
Caring Ambassadors Program
Carrie's TOUCH
Charleston Parkinson's Support Group
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO)
Colorado BioScience Association
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Congress of California Seniors
Connecticut Rheumatology Association
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Digestive Health Physicians Association (DHPA)
Empower: Abilities

Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana
Epilepsy California
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation Alaska
Epilepsy Foundation New England
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Georgia Bio
Global Colon Cancer Association
Healthcare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)
HealthyWomen
Hope for Dante'
Indiana Health Industry Forum (IHIF)
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
Jewish Family Services of Delaware
KCCure
Kidney Cancer Action Network
Large Urology Group Practice Association (LUGPA)
Life Sciences Pennsylvania
Looms For Lupus
LUNgevity Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Foundation of Colorado
Maryland Society for the Rheumatic Diseases (MSRD)
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH)
Massachusetts, Maine & New Hampshire Rheumatology Association
MedChi - The Maryland State Medical Society
Medical Association of Georgia
Medical Society of the State of New York

Men's Health Network

Mental Health America of Franklin County

Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)

MidWest Rheumatology Association

Minnesota Urology Foundation

Mississippi Oncology Society

Montana BioScience Alliance

MPN (Myeloproliferative Neoplasms) Research Foundation

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Dona Ana County

National Alopecia Areata Foundation

National Association for Rural Mental Health

National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD)

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Infusion Center Association (NICA)

National Organization of Rheumatology Managers (NORM)

New Jersey Mayors Committee on Life Sciences

New Jersey Rheumatology Association (NJRA)

New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (NMBio)

New York State Rheumatology Society

North Carolina Biosciences Organization (NCBIO)

North Carolina Rheumatology Association (NCRA)

Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice

Oncology Managers of Florida

Peer Plus Education and Training Advocates

Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition

Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District

Prevent Blindness

Prostate Health Education Network, Inc.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation Association of New Mexico

Re: Cancer

RetireSafe

Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana (RAL)

Rocky Mountain Health Network

SCBIO

Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America

South Dakota Biotech Association

State of Texas Association of Rheumatologists (STAR)

Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI)

U.S. Pain Foundation

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network

Wisconsin Rheumatology Association

Wyoming Epilepsy Association

Wyoming Medical Society

ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer

cc: The Honorable Mike Crapo

The Honorable Pat Roberts

The Honorable Michael Enzi

The Honorable John Cornyn

The Honorable John Thune

The Honorable Richard Burr

The Honorable Johnny Isakson

The Honorable Rob Portman

The Honorable Patrick Toomey

The Honorable Tim Scott

The Honorable Bill Cassidy

The Honorable James Lankford

The Honorable Steve Daines

The Honorable Todd Young

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow

The Honorable Maria Cantwell

The Honorable Robert Menendez

The Honorable Thomas Carper

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin

The Honorable Sherrod Brown

The Honorable Michael Bennet

The Honorable Robert Casey

The Honorable Mark Warner

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse

The Honorable Margaret Hassan

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto