



Louisiana Congressional Delegation:

With drug prices and healthcare dominating recent headlines, we would like to encourage you to focus on policies that will lower the out-of-pocket cost for beneficiaries at the pharmacy counter without risking the innovation of new therapies.

The Medicare program works because seniors and those with disabilities, along with their doctors, can craft treatment plans personally tailored to their unique circumstances. Unfortunately, there are several proposals that would change this advantage and impact beneficiaries' savings and access at the pharmacy counter. Proposals looking toward international models, such as the International Pricing Index (IPI), or government price setting create access barriers as well as serious safety issues for patients in Louisiana.

Another proposal that would institute a government-imposed inflation rebate would put the Part D program's successful market-based structure at risk. For seniors who rely on the program to access innovative medications, this proposal creates an environment that limits access with limited savings to the patient and has a devastating impact on future innovation.

With more than 856,000 beneficiaries in Louisiana, we urge you to consider the right way to protect Medicare patients. An out-of-pocket spending cap on Part D drugs would lower costs and increase access to medications to improve health incomes through better adherence. Beneficiaries often live with one or multiple chronic conditions, leading to significant out-of-pocket costs that are financially burdensome even in catastrophic coverage. Another potential solution in the healthcare system is within the drug rebate system that currently allows a third-party middleman to pocket the rebates offered by manufacturers. Rebate reform would create a more transparent system and allow our seniors to see greater savings at the pharmacy counter.

Louisiana seniors and those with disabilities need you to make their health care a priority and protect Medicare. We need common-sense reforms, like capping out-of-pocket costs and passing savings along to beneficiaries, to ultimately enact real change, create savings at the pharmacy counter, and preserve the long-term viability and success of the program. Thank you for your leadership and support on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana  
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation  
Sarcoidosis Awareness Foundation of Louisiana

H.E.A.L.S. of the South  
NAMI Louisiana