



Dear Louisiana Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for being a champion for patients in Louisiana — specifically, by working to preserve and ensure access to innovative and affordable medications and treatments. Patients need and deserve every possible resource at their disposal so that they can live healthy, productive lives.

As you consider upcoming policy proposals, we implore you to support measures that help your constituents afford and access medications while also protecting and fostering further innovation. Here are three key policies that we believe will help you achieve that:

- **Protect Part D.** For more than a decade, Medicare Part D has successfully provided seniors with comprehensive drug coverage. Our seniors already face too many tough choices on how to stretch fixed income dollars. Sadly, we know what would happen if seniors faced restricted access to the critical medicines they rely on: Many patients would take less, or none at all. Reducing adherence to prescribed medications not only jeopardizes patients' health, but it also increases their need for inpatient care and potentially raises costs for taxpayers. We ask you to pursue policies that ensure access to a full range of innovative, affordable, therapeutic options for Part D beneficiaries — not policies like negotiation that would effectively allow the government to decide which drugs patients have access to.
- **Support the rebate rule.** This policy directly reduces out-of-pocket costs for millions of seniors and patients with disabilities at the pharmacy counter. Health plans receive billions of dollars in discounts from biopharmaceutical companies, and the rebate rule ensures that patients receive the savings benefits — not insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers. Voters strongly support the rebate rule, as shown by this

[Kaiser Family Foundation poll](#). The rebate rule makes medications more affordable, which makes it easier for patients to take them as prescribed. That leads to better health outcomes.

- **Oppose price controls.** Right now, patients and physicians across Louisiana are hoping for new cures and treatments for thousands of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. We cannot enact policy that would reduce or remove the incentive to innovate, and setting artificial prices on drugs would have a chilling effect on medical research and advancement.

Patients want more affordable and innovative options, not fewer. Protect the ecosystem that leads to biopharmaceutical innovation. Our goal should be to lower out-of-pocket costs and improve access for patients.

Thank you,

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Senior Alliance
Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana
H.E.A.L.S. of the South
International Cancer Advocacy Network
International Foundation for Arthritis
Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation
Louisiana Mental Health Association
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
MS Foundation
National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana
Neuropathy Action Foundation
Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana
Survivor's Cancer Action Network