

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
S-220, The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of Medicare Part D beneficiaries, we urge you to advance legislative efforts to reform pharmacy direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) clawback and performance measure fees. We write to you on behalf of patients, pharmacies, health care organizations, and health care practitioners who are working collaboratively to ensure access to needed prescriptions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Patient medication access is vital to patient health and wellbeing and can protect against otherwise avoidable emergency department visits, especially at this time.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data shows pharmacy DIR fees have grown 45,000 percent since 2010 and are not used to decrease drug costs for seniors and special needs populations. These fees impose ever-increasing challenges on struggling beneficiaries, putting them at risk for reduced medication adherence and poorer health outcomes. These fees also make it harder for pharmacies to continue operating and providing seniors and special needs populations with the medications and services they desperately need. The United States now has approximately 2,000 fewer pharmacies than just two years ago. This trend reduces access to vital healthcare services; especially in rural and underserved areas where healthcare options are already limited. We've seen too many pharmacies close their doors, and we must not face additional closures during this crisis or thereafter.

We ask that you remove barriers that threaten a pharmacy's ability to support patients. This can be achieved by enacting much needed pharmacy DIR reform, including clawback and pharmacy performance measure reform. Members of Congress should not overlook the clear and present opportunity to address these needed reforms this year.

Signed,

Abitacare, LLC
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Aimed Alliance
Alabama Grocers Association
Alabama Pharmacy Association
Alaska Pharmacists Association
Albertsons Companies

Allergy and Asthma Network
Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding
Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas
Allina Health
Alphascript
American Associated Pharmacies
American Pharmacies
American Pharmacists Association
American Pharmacy Cooperative, Inc.
American Pharmacy Services Corporation
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
American Society of Health System Pharmacists
APEX Specialty Pharmacy
Ardon Health
Arete Pharmacy Network, LLC
Arizona Pharmacy Association
Arkansas Grocery and Retail Merchant Association
Arkansas Pharmacists Association
Arthritis Foundation
Arthritis Pharmacy Solutions
Associated Food Stores, Inc.
Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
Association of Indian Pharmacists in America
Balls Food Stores, Price Chopper, Hen House Markets
Baystate Health
Berkshire Community and Specialty Pharmacy
Big Y Foods Inc
BioMatrix Specialty Pharmacy
BioPlus Specialty Pharmacy
Brookshire Brothers Pharmacies
Brookshire Grocery Company
California Grocers Association
California Pharmacists Association
CARE Pharmacies Cooperative, Inc.
CareMed Specialty Pharmacy
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Coborn's, Incorporated
Colorado Pharmacists Society
Community Oncology Alliance
Community Pharmacies, LLC
Community Pharmacy Association of New York State
Compliant Pharmacy Alliance Cooperative
Comprehensive Pharmacy Services, Inc.
Connecticut Food Association
Connecticut Pharmacists Association
Costco Wholesale
Cure Stat Rx Home Infusion and Specialty Pharmacy
Currus, Inc.
Dakota Drug Co.

Delaware Supermarkets Inc.
Delaware Pharmacists Society
Discount Drug Mart
Drug World Pharmacies
Elwyn Pharmacy Group
EPIC Pharmacies, Inc.
ExceleraRx Corp
Family Pharmacy Inc.
Federation of Pharmacy Networks
Felker Pharmacy, Inc.
Florida Independent Pharmacy Network
Florida Pharmacy Association
FMI - The Food Industry Association
Food City Pharmacy
Food Giant, Inc.
Food Lion
Garden State Pharmacy Owners
Georgia Pharmacy Association
GeriMed
Gibson Sales, L.P.
Glen Rock Medical Pharmacy
Good Neighbor Pharmacy
Grafed Pharmacy Solutions
H-E-B
Hannaford Bros., Co.
Harmon City, Inc.
Hartig Drug
Hawaii Pharmacists Association
Henry Ford Pharmacy Advantage
Hi-School Pharmacy
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
Hometown Pharmacies of Wisconsin
HomeTown Pharmacy, Inc.
Hy-Vee, Inc.
Idaho Retailers Association
Idaho State Pharmacy Association
IGA, Inc.
Illinois Pharmacists Association
Independent Pharmacy Alliance
Independent Pharmacy Buying Group
Independent Pharmacy Cooperative
Indiana Pharmacists Association
Ingles Markets Inc.
ION Solutions
Iowa Pharmacy Association
Jefferson Health / Thomas Jefferson University
Kansas Pharmacists Association
Kentucky Pharmacists Association
Kentucky Retail Federation

Keystone Purchasing Alliance
Kinney Drugs
Klingensmith's Drug Stores Inc.
Kmart Pharmacy
Lewis Drug
Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association
Louisiana Wholesale Drug Co., Inc
Lupus Foundation of America
Managed Health Care Associates, Inc.
Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores
Maryland Pharmacists Association
Maryland Retailers Association
Massachusetts Chain Pharmacy Council
Massachusetts Food Association
Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association
Massachusetts Pharmacists Association
Maxor
McKesson HealthMart
Med Center Specialty Pharmacy
Medicap Pharmacy
Medicine Shoppe
Meijer, Inc.
Michigan Pharmacists Association
Minnesota Grocers Association
Minnesota Pharmacists Association
Mississippi Independent Pharmacies Association
Mississippi Pharmacists Association
Missouri Grocers Association
Missouri Pharmacy Association
Missouri Retailers Association
Montana Pharmacy Association
Morris & Dickson Co. L.L.C.
Mutual Drug
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy
National Community Pharmacists Association
National Grocers Association
National Home Infusion Association
ND Pharmacists Association
ND Pharmacy Service Corporation
Nebraska Pharmacists Association
Nebraska Retail Federation
New Jersey Pharmacists Association
New London Specialty Pharmacy
New Mexico Pharmacists Association
New Mexico Pharmacy Business Council
Niemann Foods, Inc.
Noble Health Services, Inc.

North Carolina Association of Pharmacists
Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation
Nucara Management Group, Inc.
NYU Langone Hospitals
Ohio Pharmacists Association
Oklahoma Arthritis Center
Oklahoma Family Wellness Center
Oklahoma Neurology Center
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association
Onco360 Oncology Pharmacy
Oregon State Pharmacy Association
Orsini Healthcare
Osborn Drugs, Inc.
PANTHERx Rare
PARC, an Association of Community Pharmacies
Partners HealthCare Specialty Pharmacy, Inc.
PBA Health
PCCA
Pennsylvania Association of Chain Drug Stores
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association
Pharmacist Moms
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY)
Pharmacy First
Pharmacy Franchisees and Owners Association
Pharmacy Providers of Oklahoma
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin
PPSC
Price Chopper Supermarkets
Quality Care Pharmacies
ReCept Pharmacy, LP
Restore Rx Specialty Pharmacy
Rhythm Group
Rosauers Supermarkets, Inc.
Rush Specialty Drug Solutions
RxPlus Pharmacies, Inc.
Sav-Mor Drug Stores, Inc.
Schnuck Markets, Inc.
Senderra Rx Partners, LLC
Shanahan Ventures LLC
Shelby Pharmacy LLC
Smith Drug Company
Soleo Health
South Carolina Pharmacy Association
South Dakota Pharmacists Association
Southeastern Grocers LLC
Southern Pharmacy Cooperative
SpartanNash
Sterling Specialty Pharmacy

Stop & Shop
SUPERVALU INC.
Tennessee Pharmacists Association
Texas Pharmacy Association
Texas Pharmacy Business Council
Texas Retailers Association
The Bartell Drug Company
The Giant Company
The Kroger Co.
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
Think Aksarben Specialty Pharmacy
Thompson Pharmacy
Thrifty White Pharmacy
TriHealth
Turning Point Rx
US Bioservices
Utah Food Industry Association
Utah Retail Merchants Association
Value Drug Company
Value Specialty Pharmacy
Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores
Vermont Pharmacists Association
Virginia Association of Chain Drug Stores
Virginia Pharmacists Association
Vital Care Home Infusion Services
Wakefern Food Corp.
Walgreen Co.
Walmart
Washington Food Industry Association
Washington Retail Association
Washington State Pharmacy Association
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
Weis Markets
West Virginia Pharmacists Association
West Virginia University Health System
Western States Pharmacy Coalition
Wisconsin Grocers Association
Wyoming Pharmacy Association
Zitomer/Thriftway Drug Corp.

cc: The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Senate Finance Committee Chairman
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member
The Honorable Frank Pallone, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman
The Honorable Greg Walden, House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member