



March 4, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Pitts  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
Hearing: "Examining the 340B Drug Pricing Program"  
Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 10:00 AM  
Submitted via email to: <mailto:energycommerce@mail.house.gov>

Dear Congressman Pitts and Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Subcommittee on Health;

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the 340B Drug Pricing program and how it is saving the lives of Bebashi's clients, who are among Philadelphia's poorest citizens living with HIV. Founded in 1985, Bebashi was the first African American AIDS service organizations in the United States and remains one of Philadelphia's largest, full-service minority HIV/AIDS agencies, serving more than 20,000 clients annually. Bebashi's clients are among the most impoverished and disenfranchised residents of Philadelphia. Ninety-eight percent fall below the federal poverty threshold; over 90% are unemployed; 76% are either Medicaid eligible or enrolled; and 10% have no health insurance.

The 340B program has enabled Bebashi to save significantly on life-saving medications for our clients. These savings allow our organization to provide a host of other vital resources and services such as covering deductibles and co-pays for clients living below the poverty level or paying for non-covered medications they desperately need.

The 340B program has also helped to support Bebashi's efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia by providing counseling and testing services to hard-to-reach individuals who are unaware of their status and helping them link to and stay in care. These services are particularly critical in light of a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control, which found that of the 1.1 million people living with HIV in 2009, 700,000 were not receiving care. Moreover, those individuals not in care accounted for 91.5 percent of new HIV infections.

**Our ability to provide these services demonstrates that the 340B program is achieving its goals of not only increasing access to prescription drugs for needy**

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[www.bebashi.org](http://www.bebashi.org)

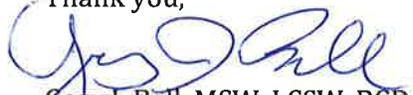


**patients but supporting safety net providers in order to improve and expand service provision.**

The positive impact of the 340B program is evident in our outcomes: our 340B program clients are 81% more likely to remain in care than our other high risk HIV+ clients.

Bebashi and many other safety-net organizations rely on the 340B program to provide vital supports and services that enable uninsured and underinsured individuals to stay alive and healthy.

Thank you,

  
Gary J. Bell, MSW, LCSW, BCD  
Executive Director