



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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September 12, 2018

The Honorable Buddy Carter
United States House of Representatives
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carter:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am pleased to offer our strong support for H.R. 6733, "Know the Cost Act of 2018," to prohibit group health plans, health insurance issuers, prescription drug plan sponsors, and Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations from limiting certain information on drug prices. The AMA applauds your leadership and efforts to remove barriers to affordable prescription medications so that patients receive the right care at the right time.

The AMA is very concerned with the escalating price of prescription medication and the negative patient health outcomes that result when patients cannot afford their medications. Transparency in the pharmaceutical supply chain is essential to identifying what is driving high prices while also providing critical insights on how to combat practices and policies that are contrary to the interests of patients. Gag clauses imposed by group health plans and by commercial and government prescription drug benefit health insurers are a clear example of policies that harm patients. The AMA advocates that pharmacies and pharmacists must be able to provide all relevant affordable prescription medication price options to patients. The AMA opposes provisions in pharmacies' contracts that prohibit pharmacists from disclosing that a patient's co-pay is higher than the drug's cash price.

The AMA applauds your efforts in this important area and looks forward to helping you advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD