

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

For more than 25 years, the 340B drug discount program has allowed safety net providers to purchase discounted drugs, allowing them to enhance their services to millions of low income and vulnerable patients. The statutory intent of the program is to allow 340B providers “to stretch scarce Federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services.” The undersigned patient and consumer advocacy organizations are compelled to speak out in strong support of the 340B drug pricing program. **We stand together to oppose any efforts to diminish the 340B program’s proven ability to help serve vulnerable patients and communities.**

340B is vital to the health care safety net as it enables trusted community providers to fulfill their missions. In many communities – particularly low-income rural and urban areas – safety net providers are the sole pathways to affordable health care. Safety net providers use 340B savings for direct health care services, drug adherence and management programs, and education and prevention programs, among many others, to benefit their patients and the communities they serve. These services are often geared towards mental health programs, HIV adherence programs, education and prevention programs, substance abuse treatment, holistic care for the disabled, integrated cancer care, care for those with serious chronic illness like kidney disease, and medication management, among others.

We are troubled by assertions that the program has grown too large, suggestions that safety net providers are “profiting” from the 340B program, and allegations that safety net providers are not truly serving underserved patients. As advocates for patients and consumers, we support transparency in the program to ensure that 340B is meeting the needs of patients. However, we cannot support any proposals branded as enhancing “transparency and oversight” that would have the effect of reducing the number of safety net providers in the program and, in turn, the number of patients served.

As policymakers prepare to consider changes to the 340B program, we urge Congress to reject any proposals that would have the effect of:

- Limiting access to affordable, clinically appropriate, pharmaceuticals for low-income, uninsured, underinsured, and other vulnerable patients
- Reducing access to care by cutting safety net providers out of the program
- Curtailing the ability of providers to use 340B savings to reach more eligible patients and provide more comprehensive services

We are committed to patients and recognize the fragile nature of our nation's safety net. We ask that you join us in supporting, not weakening, the 340B program. To discuss further, please contact Shawn Gremminger at [sgremminger@familiesusa.org](mailto:sgremminger@familiesusa.org).

Sincerely,

Families USA  
ACCSES  
ADAP Advocacy Association  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Muslim Health Professionals  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Being Alive San Diego  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Black AIDS Institute  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Disability Policy Consortium of Massachusetts  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Doctors for America  
Entre Hermanos  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Farmworker Justice  
First Focus  
Gay Men of African Descent, Inc.  
GRIOT Circle  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Hep B United  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network  
NAACP  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Director (NASMHPD)

National Black Justice Coalition  
National Dental Association  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Indian Health Board  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Health Network  
NC Community AIDS Fund  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
Not Dead Yet  
POCAAN  
Project Kindle  
Public Citizen  
Religious Institute  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate HELP Committee  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee  
The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee