



805 15th Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 T 202-347-9272

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy and Menendez:

On behalf of the Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation and the patients and families we support, I write to thank you both for introducing the "Seniors Prescription Drug Relief Act" (S. 2911). PAN offers its full support for this important legislation to address the seasonality of prescription drug costs for those on Medicare.

Founded in 2004, PAN is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help underinsured people with life-threatening, chronic, and rare diseases get the medications and treatment they need by providing financial assistance for their out-of-pocket costs and by advocating for improved access and affordability. PAN provides assistance through nearly 70 disease-specific programs and collaborates with national patient advocacy organizations to provide patients with the education and support they need. Since 2004, nearly one million underinsured patients have received financial assistance from PAN.

High out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications have become an insurmountable barrier to access for too many patients and have created a public health crisis for some of the sickest and most financially vulnerable among us, including people being treated for cancer, hepatitis C, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and many other serious illnesses. Without protection against excessive out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, Medicare beneficiaries with Part D coverage are forced to make difficult trade-offs or forgo treatment altogether.

PAN is pleased to see strong support by both Congress and the Administration for a Medicare Part D annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription drug expenses. Your bill takes an important step further by instituting a monthly cap on out-of-pocket expenses. Allowing beneficiaries to spread their payments over the course of the year will increase access to needed treatments, improve adherence to treatment, and reduce the need to make trade-offs. These reforms will go far in helping beneficiaries, who are often on fixed monthly incomes, manage their medical expenses over time.



PAN has long supported an annual and monthly out-of-pocket cap for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part D and therefore thank you for your leadership in seeking solutions to increase access to life-saving therapies for Americas Seniors and the disabled. We look forward to working with you to ensure these provisions are included in any final drug pricing package. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Niles, Vice President of External Relations at aniles@panfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Klein".

Dan Klein, MHS
President and Chief Executive Officer
Patient Access Network Foundation