

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

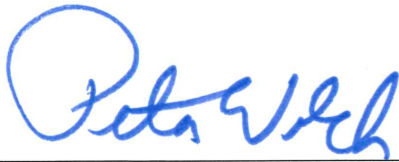
Dear Mr. President,

We write today to express our disappointment that the recently finalized Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule, Modernizing Part D and Medicare Advantage to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out of Pocket Expenses (CMS-4180-F), failed to finalize the pharmacy direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) fee reform for plan year 2020, as included in CMS's original proposal. While we commend the administration for your goal to reduce seniors' out of pocket costs for prescription drugs, we believe that finalizing this rule without including DIR reform is a missed opportunity to deliver real cost savings to Medicare beneficiaries. Without DIR reform, another year could pass before seniors see drug prices lowered at the pharmacy counter.

As CMS itself cited in the proposed rule, DIR fees on pharmacies participating in Part D grew by 45,000 percent between 2010 and 2017. This increase is unacceptable and unsustainable, and creates uncertainty not only for community and specialty pharmacies but also for the patients who rely on Part D prescription drugs. Until pharmacy DIR fee reform occurs, seniors will continue to pay higher cost-sharing for their prescription drugs. CMS estimated that these reforms would have saved Medicare beneficiaries between \$7.1 and \$9.2 billion in cost sharing over the next ten years.

For these reasons, we continue to encourage the administration to move forward with efforts to deliver seniors real relief from rising prescription drug costs. We stand ready to work with you to determine how we can adopt this relief this year.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress



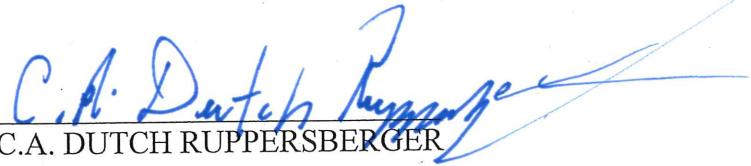
VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



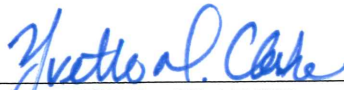
H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress



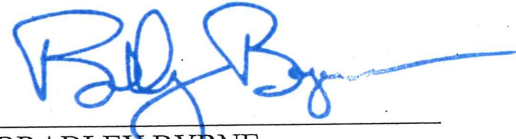
BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress




C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress



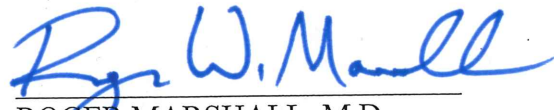
YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



BRADLEY BYRNE
Member of Congress



BRIAN BABIN
Member of Congress



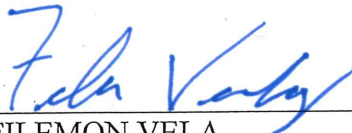
ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
Member of Congress



MICHAEL GUEST
Member of Congress



MAC THORNBERRY
Member of Congress



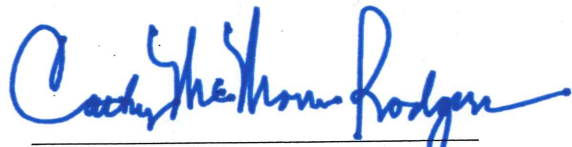
FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



TERRI SEWELL
Member of Congress



STEVE KING
Member of Congress



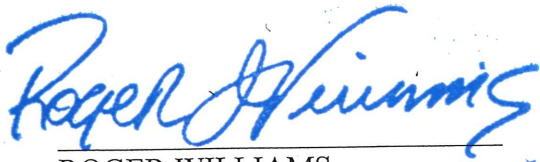
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



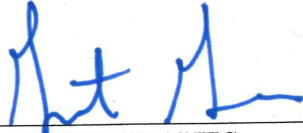
ROB WITTMAN
Member of Congress




ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



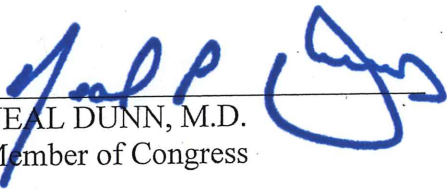
ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress



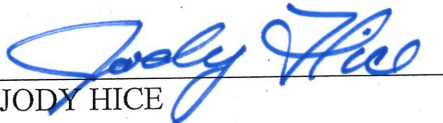
GARRET GRAVES
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



NEAL DUNN, M.D.
Member of Congress



JODY HICE
Member of Congress



STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



TED BUDD
Member of Congress



FRENCH HILL
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress



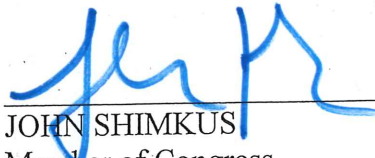
LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress



DAVID P. ROE, M.D.
Member of Congress



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress



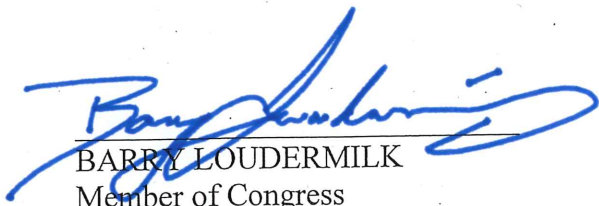
JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress



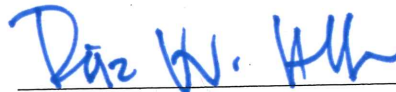
LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress



BEN CLINE
Member of Congress



BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress



RICK W. ALLEN
Member of Congress



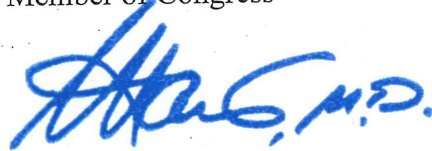
THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



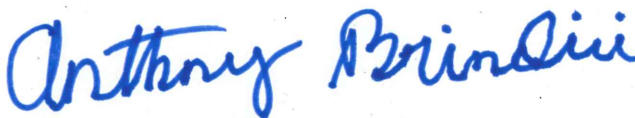
GREG GIANFORTE
Member of Congress



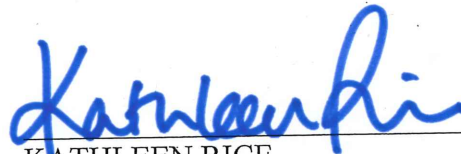
RICK CRAWFORD
Member of Congress



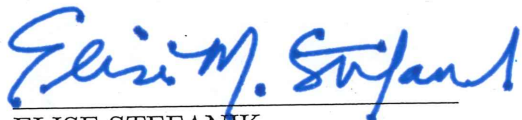
ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress



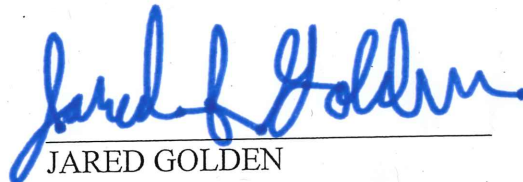
ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress



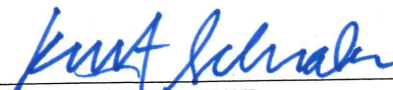
KATHLEEN RICE
Member of Congress



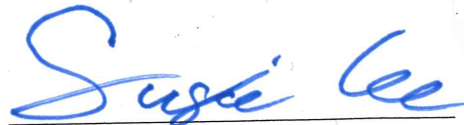
ELISE STEFANIK
Member of Congress



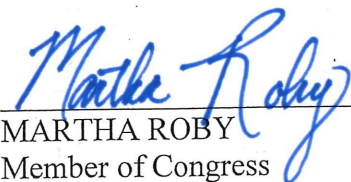
JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



SUSIE LEE
Member of Congress



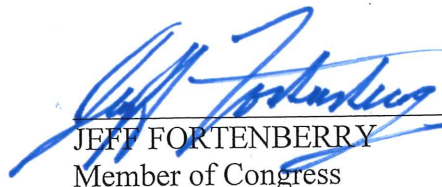
MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



JEFF FORTENBERRY
Member of Congress



TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress



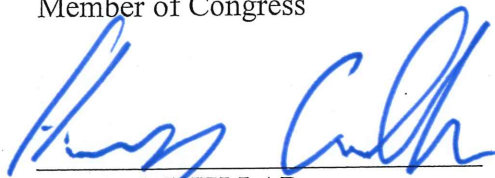
PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



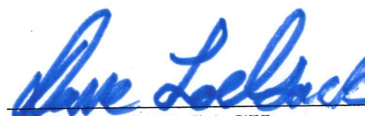
CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



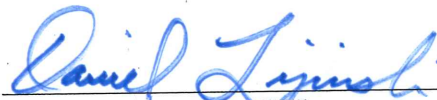
HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress



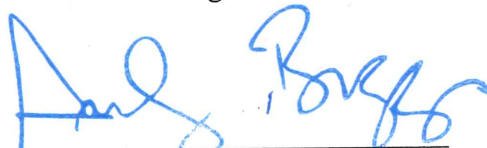
DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



A. DREW FERGUSON, IV DMD
Member of Congress



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



ANDY BIGGS
Member of Congress



PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress



JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress



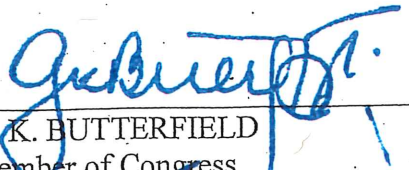
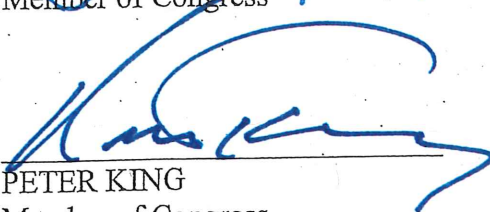

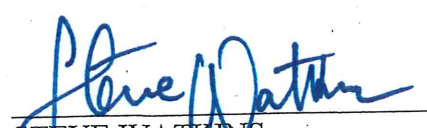


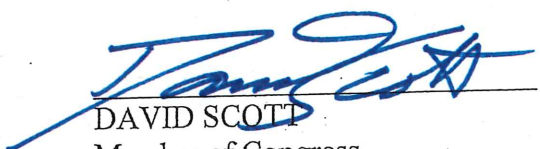




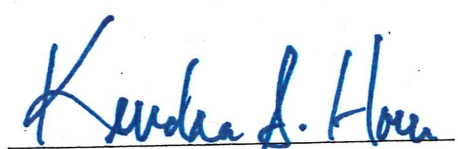
DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress



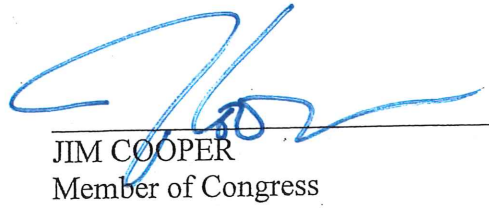
NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress



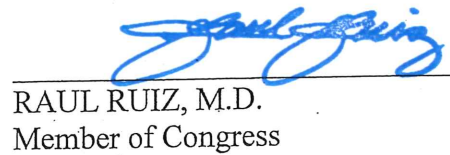
STEVE WOMACK
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G. K. BUTTERFIELD
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PETER KING
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SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
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KELLY ARMSTRONG
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HAL ROGERS
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CINDY AXNE
Member of Congress
RALPH ABRAHAM
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LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress
KENDRA L. HORN
Member of Congress

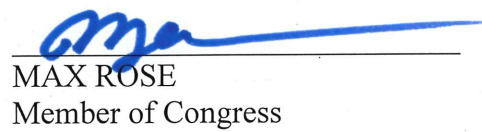

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress


JIM COOPER
Member of Congress


MIKE JOHNSON
Member of Congress


RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress

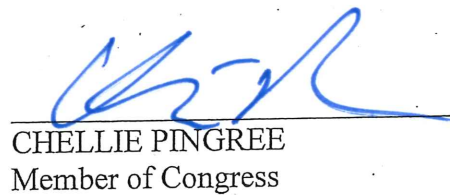

BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress

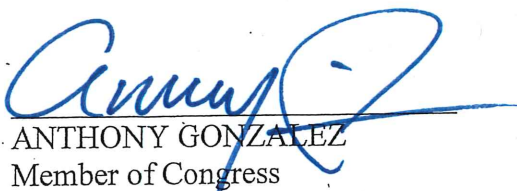

MAX ROSE
Member of Congress

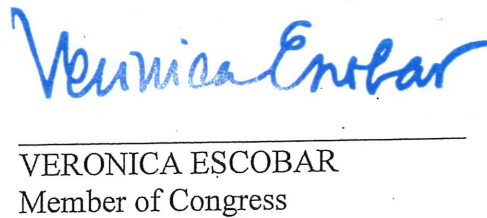

DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress

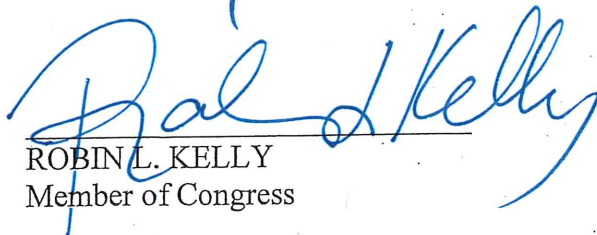

STEVEN PALAZZO
Member of Congress

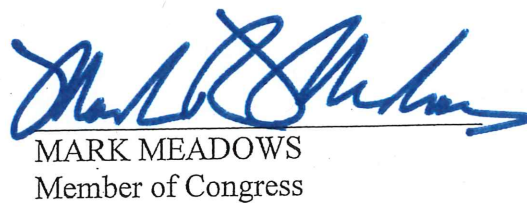

DAN NEWHOUSE
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress


ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress


VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress


ROBIN L. KELLY
Member of Congress


MARK MEADOWS
Member of Congress



GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
Member of Congress



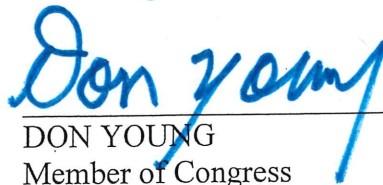
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
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LARRY BUCSHON
Member of Congress



MIKE BOST
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG
Member of Congress



SEAN DUFFY
Member of Congress



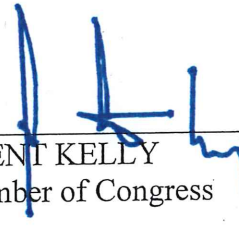
TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress



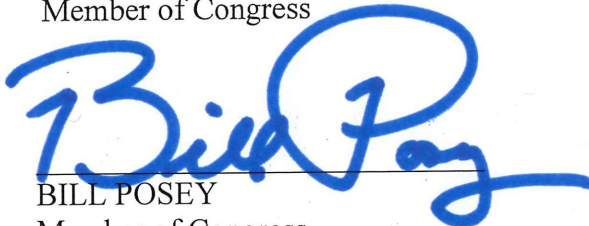
GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress



RON ESTES
Member of Congress



TRENT KELLY
Member of Congress



BILL POSEY
Member of Congress

Cc:

Mick Mulvaney, Director: Office of Management and Budget
Vice President Mike Pence
Joseph Grogan, Director: Office of Domestic Policy
Larry Kudlow, Director: National Economic Council
Alex Azar, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services