

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
US Senate  
306 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin,

As advocates for West Virginia's patient community, we are concerned with decisions being made at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) that are not in the best interest of patients. Those decisions include:

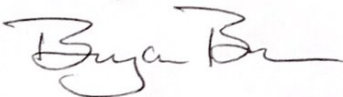
- Last minutes changes to the Medicare Part D Payment Modernization Model, announced by the Trump Administration, in January that will eliminate protections to the Medicare Part D "six protected drug classes."
- Delaying of the 2019 Rebate Rule proposal aimed at providing beneficiaries certain rebates on prescription drugs paid by pharmaceutical manufacturers to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM).

We believe that the changes in the Medicare Part D Payment Modernization Model will undermine access to life-saving medications that many of our members need to manage their health. The announced changes were made as the Trump Administration was – literally – walking out the door of The White House on January 19. These medicines treat some of the more complicated illnesses, such as: depression, HIV, psychosis, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, organ transplants and epileptic seizures, among others.

Our members must often balance cost and access to life-saving medications when choosing the best treatment for their illness. One without the other can have a devastating impact on patient care. It is our understanding that both of these issues will do nothing to lower out-of-pocket costs for patients but could severely limit the medicines available.

As you know, nearly 25 percent of West Virginia's population or 441,000 people are enrolled in Medicare and could be affected by these changes. As our congressional representative, we urge you to encourage the Biden Administration to make the protection of patient access to quality, affordable medicines a top priority and to take a serious look at both proposals again.

Sincerely,



Bryan Brown  
Executive Director  
Bioscience Association of West Virginia  
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