

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Mary K. Wakefield, PhD, RN
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Wakefield:

As representatives of safety net providers participating in the 340B drug pricing program, we urge you to delay enforcement of recently issued guidance that threatens to destabilize the program. As you know, the 340B program is essential to ensuring access to affordable drugs for underserved populations.

The 340B statute states that qualifying hospitals cannot “obtain covered outpatient drugs through a group purchasing organization (GPO).” On Feb. 7, 2013, the Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) issued a policy intended to clarify 340B program requirements for the GPO prohibition. The clarifications in OPA’s policy release involved significant changes to the way many hospitals have implemented the prohibition, creating confusion and rendering some hospitals unable to comply by the April 7 deadline due to operational challenges.

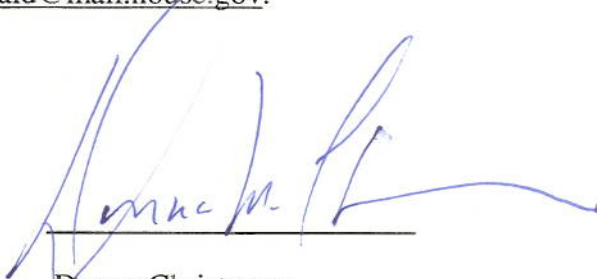
While we commend HRSA’s efforts to increase transparency and combat abuse in the system, the timing of the guidance threatens to unnecessarily limit access to affordable drugs. Many safety net hospitals in our districts rely upon the 340B program to meet the health care needs of low-income patients in our regions. In order to ensure that they have sufficient time to implement this guidance while continuing to provide their patients with the health care services and treatments they need, we urge you to delay enforcement of this guidance an additional six months.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Charlene MacDonald, Legislative Director for Representative Allyson Schwartz, at (202) 225-6111 or charlene.macdonald@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Donna Christensen
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jim Bridenstine

Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot Engel
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Danny K. Davis

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Howard Coble

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Gary Peters
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Sander Levin

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

John Lewis

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown
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John J. Duncan Jr.

John J. Duncan Jr.
Member of Congress

Ron Kind

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Carol B. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Mike Honda

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Bobby J. Rush

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy

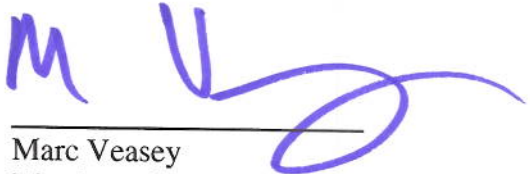
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

David P. Roe

David Phillip Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress