

SAM GRAVES
6TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

1415 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7041

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2506

11724 NW PLAZA CIRCLE, SUITE 900
KANSAS CITY, MO 64153
(816) 792-3976

411 JULES STREET, ROOM 111
ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501
(816) 749-0800

906 BROADWAY, P.O. BOX 364
HANNIBAL, MO 63401
(573) 221-3400

March 4, 2014

The Honorable Marilyn B. Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

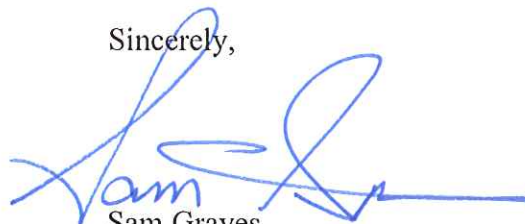
Over the last several months, I have been hearing increasing concerns from Medicare beneficiaries and small business owners in my congressional district regarding Medicare Part D plans that feature preferred pharmacy networks. I write to communicate my constituents' concerns and express my support for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) recommended Medicare Part D rule changes, specifically as they relate to preferred pharmacy networks.

As Medicare Part D preferred pharmacy networks grew and expanded in numbers, my constituents grew concerned that this could lead to a decrease in access to quality care and threaten the survival of small business pharmacies that play a vital role in our communities. Many Medicare beneficiaries in my district live in rural areas and have difficulty driving to a preferred network pharmacy located several miles away, compared to the small business pharmacy located in their town. Additionally, my constituents prefer small business pharmacies that are more likely to know their customers' prescriptions and catch any error, as opposed to a larger pharmacy.

For these reasons, I am encouraged by part of CMS's recommended rule change, which calls for Medicare Part D plans to include any willing pharmacy to participate in a preferred pharmacy network. I believe the change will allow pharmacies and Medicare Part D sponsors to pursue agreements in a cost-effective manner that supports both small business and Medicare beneficiaries.

I appreciate your consideration of my views on the matter. Please contact me or JP Mason of my staff at 202-225-7041 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress