October 2, 2017

Dear [Senator/Representative]:

Despite its track record of success in improving both patient access to medications and treatment adherence, the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) or Extra Help program is once again at risk of being altered. Proposed changes to the program could ultimately endanger the health outcomes of already vulnerable patients. Therefore, we strongly urge you to oppose any proposals that would weaken the LIS program for patients who rely on it.

Under Medicare Part D, the LIS program helps low-income beneficiaries afford brand and generic prescription drugs. More than 11 million Medicare beneficiaries rely on this program to access needed medications, including more than 6 million that are dual eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Unfortunately, some in Congress, as well as the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), have proposed changes, including decreasing subsidies for brand medicines used by LIS and dual eligible beneficiaries in the hopes of cutting costs. If implemented, these changes would place the most vulnerable enrollees in the Part D program at great risk.

For one, patients that already rely on brand medications for clinical reasons would see an increase in their out-of-pocket costs in order to maintain their current treatments. It could also force medical providers to alter treatment options for beneficiaries eligible for LIS. These changes would limit patient access to crucial medications and force unnecessary changes to treatment plans that are working. Worse, changes to treatment plans can lead to a decline in adherence, which in turn can increase long-term health issues and hospitalizations among LIS beneficiaries who stop taking their medicines or take less effective medicines. If adherence decreases as a result of these changes, Medicare costs could increase over time rather than decrease.

Low-income Medicare beneficiaries living with multiple chronic medical conditions are certain to be negatively impacted by such changes to the LIS program. As organizations that represent Medicare beneficiaries, particularly those living with serious medical conditions, we know that our constituents are more likely to rely on specific treatment regimens that are tailored to the individual complexities of their disease or comorbidities. To identify the correct combination of medications, flexibility and a wide range of options are critical.

Allowing misguided changes to the LIS program would decrease access to treatment and disrupt care for the vulnerable patients who depend on them. Therefore, we encourage you to place patient needs first by opposing harmful changes to the LIS program and protecting Medicare Part D.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

AIDS United
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Patient Access
American Association on Health and Disability
American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA)
American Kidney Fund
Arthritis Foundation
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Caregiver Action Network
Dementia Alliance International
Disability Power & Pride
Epilepsy Foundation
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
HealthHIV
Healthy Women
Institute for Educational Leadership
Long Term Care Community Coalition
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Men's Health Network
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Black Justice Coalition
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
National Black Nurses Association
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Consumers League
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Down Syndrome Society
National Grange
National Infusion Center Association (NICA)
National LGBTQ Task Force
National MS Society
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices
Prevent Blindness
RetireSafe
Salud USA
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Veterans Health Council
U.S. Pain Foundation
U.S. Rural Health Network
United Cerebral Palsy
Vietnam Veterans of America
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer

**Alabama**

Alabama Council for Behavioral Health
Epilepsy FD of Alabama
Lakeshore Foundation
NAMI Alabama
Positive Maturity, Inc.
Survivors Cancer Action Network
The Disabilities Leadership Coalition of Alabama (DLCA)

**Alaska**

NAMI Alaska
NAMI Fairbanks Inc.
NAMI Juneau

**Arizona**
Arizona Hemophilia Association
Aunt Rita's Foundation
Crossroads Inc.
Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona
Joe Niekro Foundation
NAMI Southern Arizona
St. Joseph the Worker
Valle Del Sol

Arkansas
Lupus Foundation of Arkansas, Inc.
NAMI Arkansas

California
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
Combined Health Agencies
Community Health Action Network
Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc.
Embracing Latina Leadership Alliances (ELLAS)
Epilepsy California
Healthy African American Families
Healthy Heritage
Latino Diabetes Association
Los Angeles Wellness Station
Lupus Foundation of Southern California
Lupus LA
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
NAMI
NAMI
NAMI San Mateo County
ONEgeneration
Partners in Care Foundation
South Asian Network
The G.R.E.E.N. Foundation
The Wall Las Memorias Project

**Colorado**
Colorado Gerontological Society
Let's Talk about Change
NAMI Colorado
Peer Coach Academy Colorado

**Connecticut**
Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut

**Delaware**
Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware
NAMI Delaware

**Florida**
Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Epilepsy Association of Big Bend
Epilepsy Association of Central Florida
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
H.E.A.L.S. of the South
Lupus Foundation of Florida
NAMI Florida
NAMI Hernando
Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida
Sickle Cell Foundation
United Partners for Human Services
US Rural Healthcare

**Georgia**
Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC)
The Senior Citizens Council

**Idaho**
Caribou County Senior Center
Garden Valley Senior Center
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Recovery Idaho, Inc.

**Illinois**
Center for Healthcare Innovation
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago
NAMI Illinois
NAMI Southwestern Illinois
Rush To Live

**Indiana**
Epilepsy Foundation of Indiana

**Iowa**
Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa, North/Central Illinois, Nebraska
Iowa State Grange
NAMI Greater Des Moines
NAMI Iowa

**Kansas**
American Stroke Foundation
NAMI Kansas

**Kentucky**
Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana
Kentuckiana Stroke Association
Kentucky Life Science Council
Twisted Pink

**Louisiana**
Louisiana Association for Behavioral Health
NAMI New Orleans
New Orleans Council on Aging

**Maryland**
NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore

**Massachusetts**
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter
Easter Seals Massachusetts
Epilepsy Foundation New England
Lupus Foundation New England
Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association

**Michigan**
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA)
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)
Michigan Lupus Foundation
Michigan Psychological Association

**Minnesota**
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
Medical Alley Association
Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians
NAMI Minnesota
Relapsing Polychondritis Awareness and Support Foundation Inc.
Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota

**Mississippi**
NAMI Mississippi

**Missouri**
Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri
NAMI St. Louis
Southwest Center for Independent Living
Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri & Kansas

**Montana**
Brain Injury Alliance of Montana
Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow
Mental Health America of Montana
Montana BioScience Alliance
NAMI Montana
Rocky Mountain Health Network

**Nebraska**
Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska
Community Health Charities of Nebraska
NAMI Nebraska
The Kim Foundation

**Nevada**
Epilepsy Foundation of Nevada

**New Hampshire**
AIDS Response Seacoast

**New Jersey**
Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

**New Mexico**
NAMI Dona Ana County
NAMI New Mexico
Psychosocial Rehabilitation Association of New Mexico

**New York**
Epilepsy Foundation of Metropolitan New York
Epilepsy Foundation of Metropolitan New York
Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York
International Institute for Human Empowerment
Lupus Alliance of Upstate New York
Mental Health Association in Essex County
Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.
NAACP New York State Conference
NAMI Buffalo & Erie County
NAMI New York City Metro
NAMI Orange County, NY
NAMI Rochester
NAMI Syracuse Inc.
New York State Association for Rural Health
New York Statewide Senior Action Council
North Country Behavioral Healthcare Network
NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
Southern Tier AIDS Program
The Healthcare Consortium
US Pain Foundation Inc.

**North Carolina**
Epilepsy Foundation of North Carolina

**North Dakota**
NAMI North Dakota
North Dakota Autism Connection
North Dakota Rural Health Association
Womenheart Jamestown

**Ohio**
Access Center for Independent Living (ACIL)
Cancer Support Community Central Ohio
Equitas Health
Fairhill Partners
Mental Health America of Franklin County
National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Psychological Association
Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association
Ohio State Grange
Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County, Inc.
Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate

Oklahoma
Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma
NAMI-Oklahoma

Oregon
Cascade AIDS Project
NAMI Oregon
One in Four Chronic Health

Pennsylvania
NAMI of PA Bucks County
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration

South Carolina
Mental Health America of South Carolina
NAMI Charleston
NAMI of the Pee Dee
NAMI South Carolina
South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy
South Carolina BIO
South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance

South Dakota
Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota
NAMI Sioux Falls
NAMI South Dakota
South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities
South Dakota United for Hope and Recovery

Tennessee
Brain Injury Association of Tennessee
Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee
NAMI Tennessee
Nashville CARES

Texas
Alliance of Independent Pharmacists
Alzheimer's Association Capital of Texas
American Foundation for Women's Health
BioHouston
Centro de mi Salud
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Easterseals Central Texas
Easterseals Greater Houston
Easterseals North Texas
Easterseals Rio Grande Valley
Epilepsy Foundation of Central & South Texas
Epilepsy Foundation of Texas-Houston/Dallas-Fort Worth/West Texas
It’s Time Texas
Lupus Foundation of America, Lone Star Chapter
Mental Health America of Greater Houston
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas
NAMI Greater Houston
NAMI Texas
National Association of Hispanic Nurses Houston
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter
Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association
Rio Grande Valley Partnership
Startech International Ltd.
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute
Texas Renal Coalition
Texas Renal Coalition

Utah
Epilepsy Foundation of Utah
Gay Men Aloud
NAMI Utah
SAGE Utah

Vermont
Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont
NAMI Vermont

Virginia
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens
Jefferson Area Board for Aging
LOA
Local Office on Aging
Local Office on Aging - Roanoke
Mental Health America
National Council on Aging
Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation

Washington
Epilepsy Foundation Northwest
Garden Valley Senior Center
NAMI Southwest Washington

West Virginia
Bioscience Association of West Virginia
Charleston Parkinson's Support Group
Mountain Mission Inc.

Wisconsin
Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
BioForward Wisconsin
Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin
NAMI Wisconsin
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons

**Wyoming**

Healthworks

Wyoming Epilepsy Association

Wyoming State Advocates in Leadership