

November 5, 2019

To the members of Tennessee's Congressional Delegation:

Tennesseans deserve access to the most effective treatments possible. As the cost of health care continues to be a top priority for Congress and the White House, we (along with the advocate organizations listed below) would like to share our thoughts on recent proposals, some that do not benefit our state and some that represent progress.

We are concerned about proposals that enact components of foreign health care systems or set government price controls. These approaches will come between Tennesseans and their needed treatments and are a distraction from solutions that address the actual cost of care. Additionally, these proposals threaten to restrict access to new and proven medications which help millions of Tennesseans avoid costly hospital stays, including more than 1.3 million enrolled in Medicare. Implementing harmful measures like these could tie the hands of health care providers and severely hurt R&D without securing meaningful savings for Tennesseans.

We do hope to see and support proposals that keep money in patients' pockets. Tennessee seniors would immediately see the financial benefits of approaches like an out-of-pocket cap in the Part D program and many Tennesseans who take prescription medications would see savings if drug "rebates" were actually passed along to patients (instead of being retained by supply chain middlemen).

More affordable medications would also assist in managing government costs. For example, when patients have access to affordable care – especially prescriptions, they are more likely to stick to their personalized treatment plans, which in turn keeps them out of the hospital. After all, the best way to avoid surprise billing is to keep patients from being billed at all!

Tennesseans deserve affordable access to the care they need. We urge you and your colleagues to stand with your constituents by rejecting questionable policy proposals like an international pricing index and government price setting. These proposals would destabilize the current system and have a huge, devastating impact on future cures for all Americans.

Please instead use your microphone to support proposals that would put patients first by capping out-of-pocket costs and requiring the health care middlemen to share their discounts with the patients they claim to help.

Sincerely,

Matthew F. Schipani
Director of Marketing and Patient Recruitment

Tennessee Association of Adult Day Services **TN Men's Health Network** **Mental Health America of the MidSouth**

