

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2014

Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Tavenner,

As you will recall, in March 2013, a bipartisan group of 31 Members of the House of Representatives contacted you to raise concerns about preferred pharmacy networks and to urge CMS to expand the opportunities for all pharmacies to join and compete with these Part D preferred networks on a level playing field. We wish to express our appreciation regarding the proposed changes to the use of preferred pharmacy networks in the Medicare Part D program.

We strongly support efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable and preserve beneficiary access. For this reason, we are encouraged that the proposed rule addresses the problem we highlighted by calling for Medicare Part D plans to include any willing pharmacy to participate in their preferred pharmacy network, which will ensure seniors receive comparable costs to fill prescriptions at their local pharmacies.

As you know, some seniors, especially in rural areas, reported having to travel upwards of 20 miles in order to get their medications from a preferred pharmacy network because their local community pharmacy was not given the opportunity to participate in such a network. The proposed changes to preferred pharmacy networks will protect vital small businesses and jobs while most importantly strengthening Medicare beneficiaries' access to quality care.

While those of us signing this letter may have differing opinions regarding other provisions of the rule, we thank you for listening to our views and applaud the proposed rule's provisions concerning preferred pharmacy networks. Thank you for working with us on this crucial access to health care issue.

Sincerely,



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



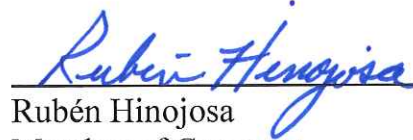
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



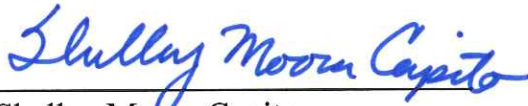
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



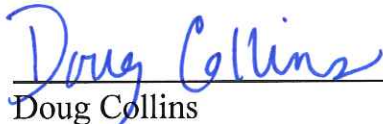
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Doug Collins
Member of Congress



Dan Maffei
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



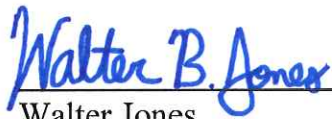
Bill Owens
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



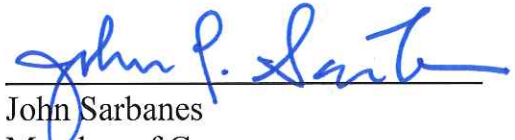
Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



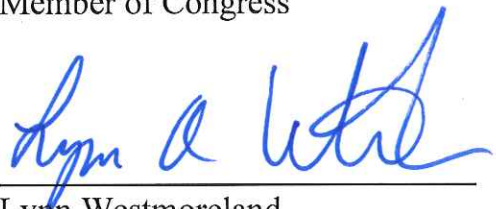
Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers (AL)
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress