



National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

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June 6, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Neal and Pallone and Ranking Members Brady and Walden:

The National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) wishes to commend your bipartisan draft bill to cap out of pocket expenses under Medicare Part D. Most simply put, this cap is long overdue.

NANASP is a national membership organization with more than 1,100 nutrition and aging services providers. In that capacity, our members work with older adults daily, many of whom are on Medicare and rely on Medicare Part D to afford their prescription medications.

Medicare Part D remains extremely popular among the older adult population. However, a fundamental concern the older adults in our members' programs have is that the absence of a Part D cap is impacting their economic security. For many of them, it translates into thousands of unexpected extra dollars they must pay each year for prescriptions. For those with chronic illnesses, the costs can be in the tens of thousands of dollars. Ultimately, it leaves these older adults with the dire choice of having to reach into savings or make choices between necessities, like food and rent, and purchasing their medication.

As new treatments begin to arrive for chronic and deadly conditions like cancer and autoimmune disorders, we need to address these soaring costs. This proposal would provide older adults with the needed certainty that they will be protected financially should they need high-cost medications now or in the future.

We appreciate that this legislation is being advanced in a bipartisan fashion, because prescription drug affordability is a bipartisan concern. We urge the quick introduction and passage of this important legislation and we thank you for drafting it.

If you have any questions about our comments, please contact NANASP's Policy and Advocacy Director Meredith Whitmire at mponder@nanasp.org or at 202-789-0470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Blancato". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Blancato
Executive Director
NANASP

Sincerely,