

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July __, 2013

The Hon. John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
235 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We write to express our bipartisan support for the existing 340B drug discount program, a 20-year old law that expands access to medical needs for many of our most vulnerable neighbors and helps to reduce pharmaceutical costs for hundreds of hospitals that serve many low-income residents of our states.

Also, in tough times, importantly, the 340B program has reduced Federal and state government spending on prescription drugs by billions of dollars and successfully increases access to drugs for low income and other vulnerable patients served by 340B providers.

Our 340B hospitals report that the program enables them to expand health care services to the community, increase the number of patients they serve, or offset losses from uncompensated care. All of this benefits our neighbors who need assistance the most. Given the significant economic pressures on these safety net providers, any threat to these savings means that these community-based initiatives are at great risk of not being able to serve our most vulnerable neighbors.

On behalf of the millions of our neighbors who rely upon safety net providers, we urge you to resist any legislative efforts to change the law's mission – to help safety net providers “stretch scarce Federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services.”

Sincerely,

Shelley Moore Capito, M.C.

Kathy Castor, M.C.