

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2013

Dear Colleague:

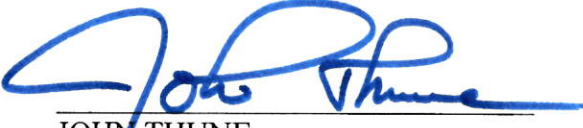
Two decades after its inception, the 340B Drug Discount Program remains essential for safety-net providers to fulfill their role in caring for our nation's vulnerable populations. We are supportive of the 340B program and desire to work with all stakeholders to make necessary improvements to the program.

In 1992, Congress enacted the 340B Program to provide a variety of safety-net providers serving vulnerable patient populations with discounts on pharmaceuticals, which in turn, enables them to stretch scarce resources further in fulfillment of their patient care missions.

For the past 20 years, the 340B Program has provided a critical means to lower operational costs for these safety-net providers as well as state and federal governments. Congress has reaffirmed its intent of providing discounted drugs to providers serving low-income and vulnerable patients by expanding the types of eligible covered entities to include additional categories of hospitals including children's and rural hospitals.

We encourage you to join us as we show continued support of the 340B program by signing the attached letter. To add your name to the letter, please contact Jane Lucas with Senator Thune (jane_lucas@thune.senate.gov) or Nick DiCarlo with Senator Baldwin (nick_dicarlo@baldwin.senate.gov). The deadline to sign is Thursday, July 25, 2013.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:


We write to express our bipartisan support for the 340B Drug Discount Program, a 20-year old law that helps to reduce pharmaceutical costs for hundreds of hospitals that serve many low-income residents of our states.

The 340B Program has reduced federal and state government spending on prescription drugs by billions of dollars and successfully increased 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. Given the significant economic pressures on these safety net providers, any threat to these savings means that these community-based programs are at great risk.

We appreciate your continued support of the program, and look forward to working with you to improve the program and ensure the 340B Program continues to serve the needs of safety net entities and their patients.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator