

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Don J. Wright  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Seema Verma  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Acting Secretary Wright and Administrator Verma:

The 340B program has been critical to supporting our safety-net providers in helping low-income and vulnerable individuals across the country access affordable, comprehensive health care services for more than 25 years. Hospitals in our states report that this program has enabled them to expand health care services to the community, increase the number of patients they serve, and offset losses in uncompensated care.

We also recognize that work can be done to strengthen the program through targeted clarifications and improvements to ensure it continues to fulfill its purpose with integrity and efficiency.

Nevertheless, hospitals in our states have raised significant concerns regarding the 2018 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment Program's (OPPS) proposal to reduce Medicare reimbursement to 340B recipients. While the proposal aims to reduce seniors' cost-sharing for prescription drugs, a laudable goal, we are concerned the proposal could ultimately result in higher beneficiary cost-sharing for other services. Further, 340B providers, particularly in rural communities, are concerned that the proposal would strain already scarce resources.

The long-term success of the 340B program is imperative. As CMS finalizes the 2018 OPPS rule, we implore you to carefully consider stakeholder concerns and feedback, and to act to ensure that reimbursement for 340B providers enables them to continue serving the most vulnerable. We also urge the Department to continue working with stakeholders to ensure the 340B program meets its objectives through proper oversight.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE  
United States Senator



ROB PORTMAN  
United States Senator



SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
United States Senator



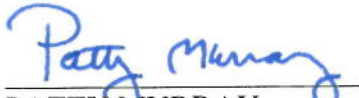
JOHN HOEVEN  
United States Senator



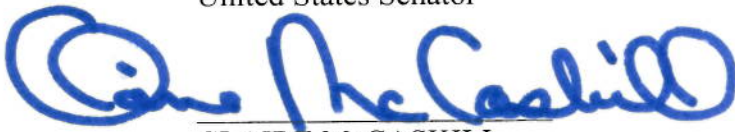
SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



PATTY MURRAY  
United States Senator



CLAIRE McCASKILL  
United States Senator



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator



BILL NELSON  
United States Senator



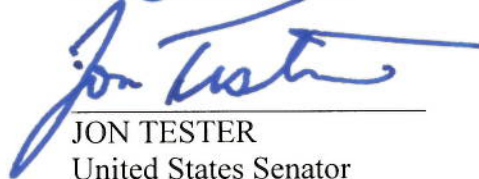
TAMMY BALDWIN  
United States Senator



DEBBIE STABENOW  
United States Senator



ROGER F. WICKER  
United States Senator



JON TESTER  
United States Senator



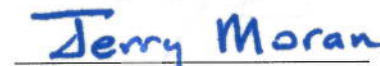
RICHARD J. DURBIN  
United States Senator



CORY GARDNER  
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senator



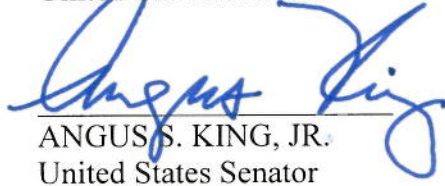
JERRY MORAN  
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE  
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senator



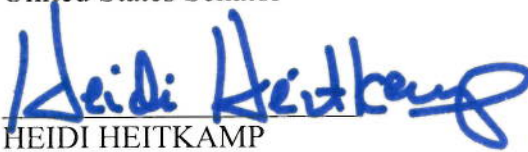
AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER  
United States Senator




PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator



HEIDI HEITKAMP  
United States Senator



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
United States Senator



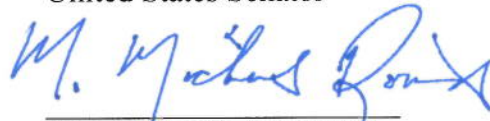
BEN CARDIN  
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN  
United States Senator



TOM CARPER  
United States Senator



M. MICHAEL ROUNDS  
United States Senator



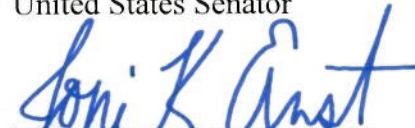
THAD COCHRAN  
United States Senator



TOM COTTON  
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO  
United States Senator



JONI K. ERNST  
United States Senator



JOHN BOOZMAN  
United States Senator



DAVID PERDUE  
United States Senator


MICHAEL F. BENNET  
United States Senator

CORY A. BOOKER  
United States Senator


MARIA CANTWELL  
United States Senator

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator

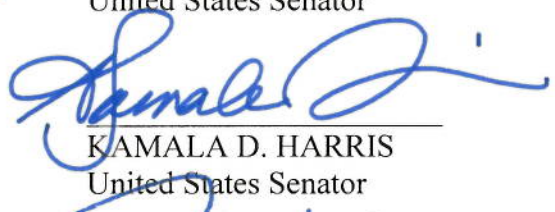

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS  
United States Senator

TAMMY DUCKWORTH  
United States Senator


DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

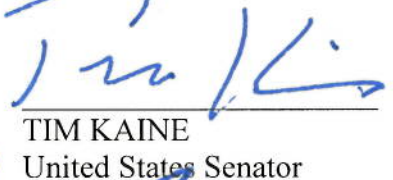
AL FRANKEN  
United States Senator



KAMALA D. HARRIS  
United States Senator




MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator



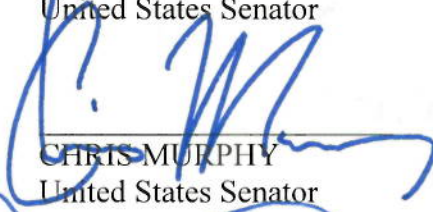
TIM KAINÉ  
United States Senator



EDWARD J. MARKEY  
United States Senator



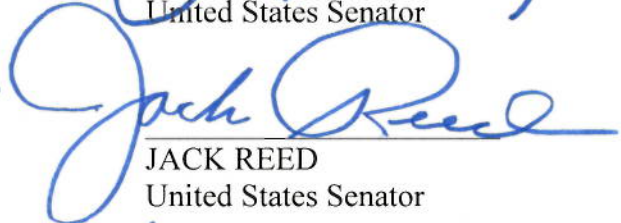
JOE MANCHIN III  
United States Senator



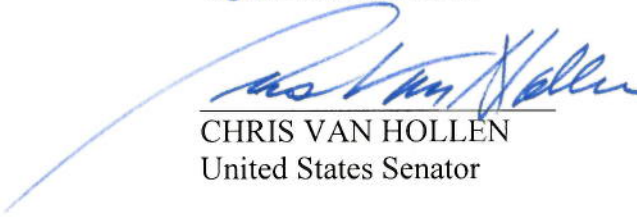
CHRIS MURPHY  
United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS  
United States Senator



JACK REED  
United States Senator



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
United States Senator



MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator



ELIZABETH WARREN  
United States Senator



JEFFREY A. MERKLEY  
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator