

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



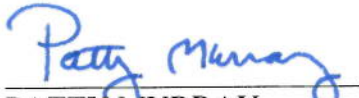
JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator



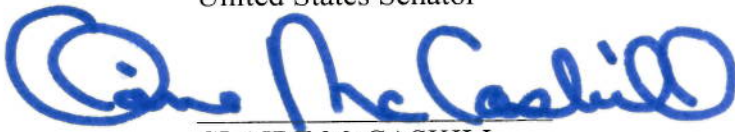
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KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
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PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator



CLAIRE McCASKILL
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STEVE DAINES
United States Senator



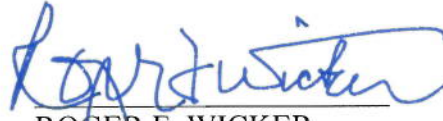
BILL NELSON
United States Senator



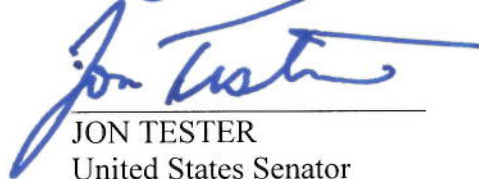
TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator



DEBBIE STABENOW
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ROGER F. WICKER
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JON TESTER
United States Senator



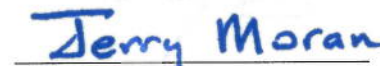
RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



CORY GARDNER
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



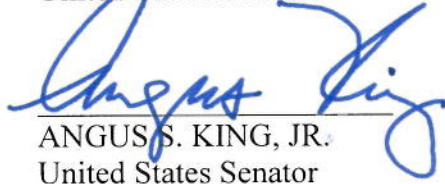
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BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



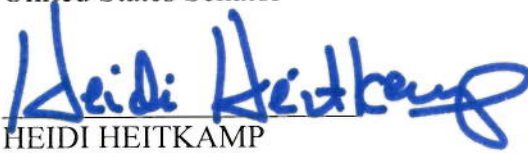
AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER
United States Senator



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



HEIDI HEITKAMP
United States Senator



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator



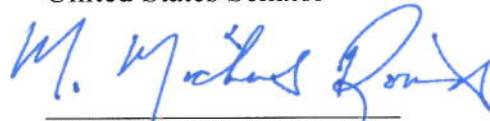
BEN CARDIN
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JEANNE SHAHEEN
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TOM CARPER
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M. MICHAEL ROUNDS
United States Senator



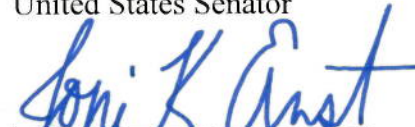
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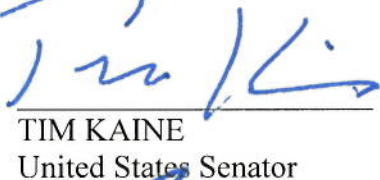
AL FRANKEN
United States Senator



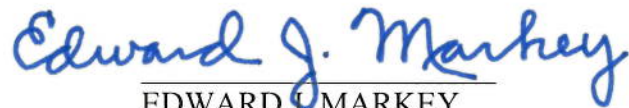
KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator



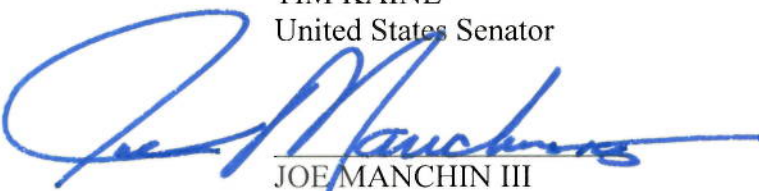
MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



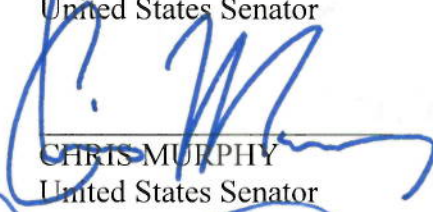
TIM KAINÉ
United States Senator



EDWARD J. MARKEY
United States Senator



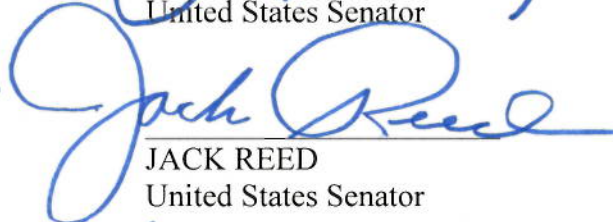
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CHRIS MURPHY
United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator



JACK REED
United States Senator



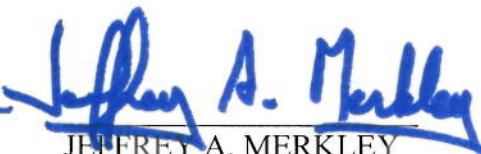
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MARK R. WARNER
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JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
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ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator