

Please ensure Medicare reforms directly benefit patients

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Ohio has more than 2.3 million people who are Medicare or Medicare Advantage beneficiaries. Medicare services are critical for Ohio seniors and people with disabilities, especially those with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, mental illness, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease and more.

These Ohioans depend on medications available through Medicare Part B and Part D for critical treatments that help them live their best lives. Many Medicare beneficiaries in Ohio are concerned about rising out-of-pocket costs for the medicines they need.

As advocates for seniors and people with disabilities, we are concerned that current policy solutions before Congress designed to address patient cost, may not actually be in the best interest of patients. We believe any reforms to Medicare must be patient-focused and must reduce costs for beneficiaries at the pharmacy counter. Reforms also must maintain access to a wide array of medicines and preserve research and discovery of new treatments and cures.

We are asking members of Ohio's Congressional delegation to please carefully consider current policy solutions that address prescription drug costs. To help reduce costs for seniors, we support passing along the negotiated rebate savings and discounts to patients. In addition, drug pricing policy should cap Part D out-of-pocket costs. This will help seniors and align Part D with other coverage plans that do cap these unpredictable costs.

We also ask that Congress move away from proposals that would undermine the competitive structure of Medicare Part D. Medicare Part D achieves savings for the system and for patients through negotiations carried out by manufacturers, health plans and pharmacies. Interference in this process through inflation penalty proposals, government price setting, and foreign pricing models could result in decreased availability of needed medicines and threaten innovation of new treatments and cures.

Thank you for your service to Ohio and to our nation. We ask that you keep Ohio Medicare beneficiaries foremost in mind when considering changes to the Medicare system.

