



#### Florida Congressional Delegation:

Florida is home to nearly 4.6 million Medicare beneficiaries – many depending on the medications provided by the Part D program. Unfortunately, two recent regulatory changes could threaten affordable access to medications for these individuals.

As you know, the six protected classes policy gives beneficiaries access to all or substantially all medications within the six categories of drugs: antiretrovirals, immunosuppressants, antidepressants, antipsychotics, anticonvulsants, and oncology drugs.

Shortly before President Biden took office, the Trump administration made significant alterations to the Medicare Part D Payment Modernization Model. The alterations to the Medicare Part D plan have no effect on decreasing patients' out-of-pocket costs, and instead reduce patients' access to necessary medication.

The new Medicare Part D Model limits patients' access to life-saving medication; harms patients fighting life-altering chronic illnesses; endangers patients' proper health care by constricting physicians' available avenues for treatment; and creates obstacles for healthcare providers already working to solve unimaginably difficult patient illnesses. All while doing nothing to reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients.

While we applaud the new Administration's commitment to making medications affordable, we cannot undermine the protected class status of medications in doing so and must ensure the decision-making process remains between the patient and their physician. The millions of Floridians who depend on the Medicare Part D program are entitled to at least two therapeutic options from the six protected classes – one therapeutic option is not enough.

Additionally, on November 20, 2020, HHS finalized the Trump Administration's previously abandoned 2019 Rebate Rule proposal that would bring down out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter for

beneficiaries with chronic and debilitating diseases. If implemented as intended, the rule would have ensured discounts go directly to patients – not middlemen – and increase patient adherence to their life-saving treatment plans.

Please join us in urging the Biden administration to take action and ensure patient access to a broad range of quality, affordable and reliable care and therapeutics by protecting the Medicare Part D program and its six protected classes by withdrawing the demo and implementing the Rebate Rule to lower out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter.

We appreciate your focus on these important issues and encourage you to implement policies that protect Medicare Part D.

Sincerely,

Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center  
Big Bend Cares  
Care Point  
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network  
Epilepsy Association  
Epilepsy Florida  
Florida Medical Association

Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
H.E.A.L.S. of the South  
Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida  
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation  
Oncology Managers of Florida  
South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce