

March 25, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing diverse patient and provider stakeholders who are concerned with the effects of rebate walls on patient treatment access, we greatly appreciate your leadership on critical efforts to protect patient well-being. We are pleased that you have requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examine the effects of rebate walls on pharmaceutical prices and competition and that this is a focus issue for you and your staff. The critical need for this review is especially heightened during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as millions of Americans face financial uncertainty and obstacles to care and treatments.

As you are aware, rebate walls restrict patient access to lower-cost generic drugs, biosimilars, and often newer, more effective treatments. In short, rebate walls stifle innovative therapies that have the potential to improve lives for countless people struggling to live with chronic and rare conditions. We strongly support reforms to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and their contracting practices as a method to improve patient well-being and to address drug pricing, transparency, affordability, and access issues.

We believe that the GAO should act expeditiously to conduct a comprehensive examination of the impact of rebate walls on patient access, pricing, and spending as directed by your request last June. Given the importance of this issue and its impact on access to care, we urge you and your colleagues to emphasize the significance of the GAO analysis being completed this year. For Americans living with chronic and rare conditions access to appropriate medicines can dramatically improve disease outcome and quality of life.

As part of this in-depth review, we believe that the GAO should evaluate the effects of rebate walls on patient out-of-pocket and government spending; access; competition; physician drug prescribing practices; market entry of new generic drugs, biosimilars, and innovative branded drugs; and incentives to invest in the development of new therapies. In addition, we feel strongly that the GAO should incorporate both the patient and provider voice in its evaluation and encourage you to reach out to us to assist in that regard.

We commend and thank you for your ongoing leadership and tireless efforts to improve American lives and look forward to continuing our engagement on this important issue.

Please contact Steven Newmark at snewmark@ghlf.org if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alliance for Gout Awareness
Alliance for Patient Access
Alliance for Transparent & Affordable Prescriptions
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American College of Rheumatology
California Rheumatology Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Color of Crohn's & Chronic Illness, Inc.
Consumer Action
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Gout Education Society
Infusion Access Foundation
International Foundation for Autoimmune and Autoinflammatory Arthritis
Kentuckiana Rheumatology Association
Looms for Lupus
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Midwest Rheumatology Association
National Infusion Center Association
National Organization of Rheumatology Managers
New York State Rheumatology Association
North Carolina Rheumatology Association
Ohio Association of Rheumatology
Patients Rising Now
Rheumatology Nurses Society
U.S. Pain Foundation