



**BlueCross BlueShield
Association**

An Association of Independent
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans

1310 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
202.626.4780
Fax 202.626.4833

July 25, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Senate Committee on Finance, Chairman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Senate Committee on Finance, Ranking Member
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) would like to commend the Senate Finance Committee's bipartisan work to lower prescription drug costs for beneficiaries in government programs, as reflected in the Chairman's Mark for the "Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act (PDPRA) of 2019."

The Chairman's Mark contains very important and valuable drug cost protections for seniors and people with disabilities to ensure they have access to the medications they need. Additionally, the proposed changes would simplify the Medicare Part D benefit without increasing premiums, ensuring stability for the more than 45 million Americans who rely on this successful program. These proposals, as well as complementary provisions to increase market competition and transparency and reduce costs in Medicare and Medicaid, are an encouraging step forward towards our collective goal to lower prescription drug prices.

While we feel there remains some opportunity to strengthen the package, we look forward to continuing to work with you, Congress, the Administration and other stakeholders to ensure these and other policies protect consumers from the increasing burden of high drug prices while respecting the importance of market forces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Handelman".

Justine Handelman
Senior Vice President,
Office of Policy and Representation