



December 19, 2017

Washington, DC (December 19, 2017) – Betsy Huber, President of the National Grange, issued the following statement in support of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) recently issued Request for Information (RFI) on lowering Medicare Part D costs:

"We commend CMS' recent request for more information in their proposed Medicare Part D rule, aimed at driving down the out-of-pocket costs at pharmacy counters across the nation.

"Seniors in rural America face higher obstacles and higher costs for healthcare due to the scarcity of health resources and treatment options in rural areas. Saving money is important to everyone, but the extra burdens facing rural Americans makes lowering healthcare costs even more important to them. As an advocate for rural Americans for 150 years – a milestone we celebrated just this month – we know the importance of this issue to everyday Americans, and thank CMS for issuing this RFI. It shows a commitment to increase transparency.

"Specifically, on this issue, we believe comments will make it harder for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to pocket rebates and discounts intended for consumers and help ensure that the discounts and rebates negotiated by manufacturers in Medicare Part D actually get to patients. CMS' rule is an important step toward saving money and providing peace of mind for every American in need of pharmaceuticals. This is very welcome news for us all, especially for seniors and rural residents."

"The National Grange recently celebrated its 150th anniversary of advocating on behalf of rural Americans. We've had a lot of success, but unfortunately, seniors in rural America still face greater obstacles and higher costs for healthcare due to scarcity of health resources and treatment options in rural areas. That's why we commend CMS' recent request for information in their proposed Part D rule aimed at driving down out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter.

Saving money is important to everyone, but the extra burdens facing rural Americans makes lowering healthcare costs even more important for them.

The CMS RFI will help identify ways to increase accountability for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and make it harder for them to pocket rebates and discounts intended for consumers. By helping to ensure that the discounts and rebates negotiated by manufacturers in Medicare Part D actually get to patients, CMS' rule is an important step toward saving money and providing peace of mind. That's welcome news."