

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

We write to express our bipartisan support for the 340B drug discount program, a program that expands access to health care services in our states by reducing pharmaceutical costs for hundreds of hospitals serving our most vulnerable constituents.

Since its creation in 1992, the 340B program has allowed hundreds of hospitals and other safety net providers across the country to do more with less. Hospitals have expanded community-based services to serve our most vulnerable. Our hospitals report that they have increased the number of patients they serve and have offset losses from uncompensated care with help from the 340B program.

Currently, the 340B program is the subject of pending rule-making according to the Department of Health and Human Services. We look forward to working with you to evaluate the proposed regulations to ensure that participating entities can continue to serve their patients, particularly during this period of economic difficulty.

We are committed to program integrity and balancing the needs of all program stakeholders, and we look forward to working with you to continue to improve the program.

Sincerely,

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator

ROB PORTMAN
United States Senator

BILL NELSON
United States Senator