

March X, 2020

The Honorable [MEMBER OF CONGRESS]
[ADDRESS LINE 1]
[ADDRESS LINE 2]

Re: Protecting Access to Charitable Patient Assistance Programs

Dear [MEMBER OF CONGRESS]:

On behalf of tens of millions of Americans who are living with and managing illnesses – including chronic, rare, and life-threatening diseases – we are writing to express our support for non-profit charitable assistance programs, which help patients and their families afford health care. Access to charitable assistance is more important than ever during these unprecedented and challenging times.

Many of the patients we serve rely on non-profit charitable patient assistance programs as a critical lifeline and temporary bridge to lifesaving and life-sustaining care. At no added cost to taxpayers, charitable patient assistance programs help people living with rare and chronic diseases afford their health insurance premiums, out-of-pocket expenses, and other costs associated with their care, including travel, nursing, and infusion costs. Thousands of patients in our disease communities have no other options – non-profit patient assistance is their last resort.

The ongoing challenges that patients and their families are facing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic highlight the importance of non-profit patient assistance programs. As large and small businesses shed positions to grapple with the economic impact of COVID-19, an increasing number of unemployed Americans and their families, including many living with rare and chronic disorders, will turn to charitable assistance organizations to help maintain their health insurance and access to treatment. Now, at the time when patients need this valuable assistance the most, the federal government should roll back rules that enable health insurance providers to reject assistance payments from charitable organizations, and all charitable assistance must be counted toward a patient's deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.

As Congress considers policy proposals to improve access and affordability in health care, we urge you to protect charitable patient assistance and reject policies that would jeopardize the availability of non-profit assistance without contemplating the effects of such policies on our patient communities and providing an adequate alternative.

Respectfully,
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Liver Foundation
aHUS Foundation
California Chronic Care Coalition
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
Community Liver Alliance
Danny's Dose Alliance
Fabry Support & Information Group
Global Colon Cancer Association
Global Liver Institute

Good Days
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Hope Charities
Interstitial Cystitis Association
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD)
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Life Raft Group
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
METAvivor
National Pancreas Foundation
National PKU Alliance
NephCure Kidney International
Neuropathy Action Foundation
Patients Services, Inc.
Project Sleep
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
The Oley Foundation
The VHL Alliance
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
United Ostomy Associations of America
US Hereditary Angioedema Association