



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JUN 28 2021

Carl Schmid
Executive Director
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
1602B Belmont Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Schmid:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of millions of Americans living with complex medical conditions regarding the affordability of prescription drugs. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue, which is crucial to patients and their families.

Your letter notes that the high cost of medicines negatively affects patient adherence and leads to worse health outcomes. Your letter also makes several recommendations such as instituting cost-sharing caps for patients and requiring insurers to offer plans that include first-dollar coverage of prescription drugs. Input from our stakeholders is important to the policy-making process, and we value your feedback.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agrees that the rising cost of prescription drugs is a vital issue. Ensuring Americans have, and maintain access to, life-changing and life-saving treatments is a top priority of this Administration. At HHS, we are committed to exploring solutions and strategies, including Medicare drug price negotiation, that improve the affordability of, and patients' access to, prescription drugs. We look forward to finding effective ways to address this problem so that we can bring much needed relief from high prescription medicine prices to American patients. As we work to find effective new solutions, we also will ensure that we use all the tools available to us that may help reduce prescription medicine prices, including applicable nondiscrimination provisions in the Affordable Care Act

Thank you again for your letter and taking time to share your recommendations. Please share this response with the organizations who co-signed your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Xavier Becerra".

Xavier Becerra