



March 2nd, 2021

Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

As representatives of patients who are living with some of the most challenging illnesses, such as cancer, mental illness and HIV, we are writing to express our concern regarding a new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMMI) Medicare Part D demo.

This January the Trump Administration proposed new “formulary flexibilities” through a CMMI Medicare Part D demo. These “flexibilities” would allow Part D plans to treat the six protected classes of drugs like any other class of drugs and waive the requirements for plans to cover all drugs in the 6 protected classes.

Drugs in the six protected classes cover some of the most difficult to treat conditions and the patients that rely on these drugs often must try several before they find the one that works best for them, which is why comprehensive coverage in these classes is so critical. The drugs in these classes treat everything from organ transplant patients, cancer, depression, epilepsy, and HIV/AIDS and they are protected precisely because patients with these conditions need access to a range of options.

These “flexibilities” were put forward as a cost savings measure for the government but not for patients. In fact, limiting patient access to these life-saving medications may keep patients sicker for longer and worsen health outcomes, both of which would only drive health costs up.

Additionally, many patients are already using medications in these classes to keep them healthy and stable, if their coverage changes and they can no longer access the meds that work best for them, their health could be negatively impacted.

We strongly encourage the Biden Administration to put patients first by preventing the CMMI Part D demo from moving forward and potentially hurting the millions of Medicare beneficiaries that depend on the six protected classes of medicines.

Sincerely,

American Liver Foundation

NAMI Minnesota

Community Liver Alliance

Minnesota Rural Health Association

Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota

National Kidney Foundation Serving
Minnesota

JustUS Health

National Marrow Donor Program/Be The
Match®

Minnesota Independent Physicians
Association

State Grange of Minnesota

Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society.

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
(SAVE)

Minnesota Pharmacists Association