

Text of Model Letter to SFC committee members:

Dear Senator _____:

[I/We/Association Name] noted with disappointment the inclusion of your signature on a recent Senate Finance Committee letter that expressed blanket opposition to the recently proposed Part D rule. While **[I/We/Association Name]** appreciate the fact that Congressional members on both sides of the aisle may have concerns with certain aspects of the rule, the proposed rule also contains a number of provisions that **[I/We]** strongly supports and that are critical to ensuring the continued viability of independent community pharmacies.

Specifically, the proposed rule includes a provision that will enable any willing pharmacy to offer preferred cost sharing (or reduced copayments) as long as they are willing to agree to a plan's terms and conditions. To date, independent community pharmacies have not been given the opportunity to participate in these networks. This provision will strengthen small businesses in your state as well and provide seniors greater access to potential cost savings and ensure that they can continue to utilize their local pharmacy of choice. **[We are]** also strongly supportive of provisions that will enable pharmacists to be reimbursed in a timely manner for generic drugs, measures to "level the playing field" between mail order and retail pharmacies and to expand patient eligibility for Medication Therapy Management (MTM) services.

Independent community pharmacists have been on the front lines of providing medications, related counseling, and assistance with plans since the inception of the Part D program. More than any other segment of the pharmacy industry, independent community pharmacies are often located in the underserved and rural areas that are home to many Medicare recipients and in many cases, operate as the only retail pharmacy within their rural communities.

In recognition of your long standing support for small business pharmacies, we ask that you weigh in directly with CMS on these specific small pharmacy provisions that will create more competition in the Part D program, expand choice for Seniors and lower costs for the federal government.

Sincerely,

[Name and/or Association]