October 22, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Chairman, Committee on Energy & Commerce Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means
US House of Representatives US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman, Committee on Education & Labor
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chairmen Pallone, Neal, and Scott:

Thank you for your leadership in addressing rising prescription drug costs. We write in support of HR 3, which recently passed out of your Committees.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

HR 3 represents a significant shift in the operations of the Medicare prescription drug benefit and in commercial health plans. HR 3 has garnered our support by differing from previous Medicare negotiation bills: achieving savings without relying on a national formulary and ensuring that lower prices are passed on to consumers and beneficiaries through lower cost-sharing. Further, HR 3 now includes language barring the Secretary from using research that relies on discriminatory measures like quality adjusted life years in the negotiation process. CCD thanks the committees for this thoughtful approach.

HR 3 includes an out-of-pocket cap in Part D and simplification of the Part D benefit. CCD strongly supports a cap, as well as the provision added at markup to help beneficiaries smooth costs across the year.

HR 3 reinvests savings into Medicare by expanding benefits and improving coverage for low-income beneficiaries. HR 3 passed out of the Energy & Commerce Committee alongside three bills to expand Medicare coverage of vision, dental, and hearing benefits, as well as a bill to expand and improve Medicare Savings Programs. Title IV of HR 3 expands and improves the
Low-Income Subsidy program. Each of these expansions and improvements will help people with disabilities access the health care they need.

As the process moves forward, CCD encourages Congress to consider further improvements, including improving the appeals process (as proposed in HR 3824), passing through all rebates and discounts to beneficiaries and consumers in Medicare and commercial insurance, and increasing CMS oversight of formulary placement and utilization management in Part D.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions to Julie Ward (ward@thearc.org).

Sincerely,

Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Justice in Aging
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
The Arc of the United States