



February 8, 2017

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our support for S. 41, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2017. We commend you for introducing this legislation that will leverage the bargaining power of Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices on behalf of nearly 41 million seniors enrolled in this program.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 148,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act will empower the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers the prices (including discounts, rebates, and other price concessions) that may be charged for prescription drugs covered under Medicare Part D in prescription drug plans that participate in this program. S. 41 will not require the Secretary to establish or require a particular formulary for any prescription drug plan in Medicare. The Secretary would also be required to submit to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Government Reform, and Senate Committee on Finance, a report on negotiations conducted by the Secretary to achieve lower prices for Medicare beneficiaries and the prices and price discounts that may be gained as a result of such negotiations.

The ACP has long-standing policy of advocating for the ability of the Secretary to negotiate drug prices and rebates directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers as a way to keep costs to the system down. Physicians understand all too well the impact of rising drug costs on their patients, many of whom live on a limited fixed income budget, and may forego treatment because they can no longer afford their medications. We urge the Senate to pass this legislation to increase patient access to these lifesaving prescription drugs.

We look forward to working with you to help advance this legislation, and would be happy to serve as a resource on any policies that would impact physicians or their patients. Should you

have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Buckley on the ACP staff at bbuckley@acponline.org or by phone at 202-261-4543.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nitin Damle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nitin S. Damle, MD, MS, MACP
President