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January 28, 2013

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

On behalf of the Medicare Rights Center, I am writing to express our support for the *Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act (S. 117)*. This important legislation adds to the tools available to the federal government to control the cost of pharmaceutical drugs under Medicare Part D.

Under current law, the Secretary is expressly prohibited from negotiating Medicare drug prices. Private prescription drug plans alone bear the responsibility of negotiating with pharmaceutical manufacturers. Authorizing the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate has the potential to bring down drug prices for blockbuster or single-source medicines. Already the federal government leverages its buying power to secure reduced drug prices for the Veterans Administration.

Allowing the Secretary to negotiate drug prices takes a critical step forward towards containing the cost of Medicare prescription medications. In addition to strengthening the long-term sustainability of the Medicare program, lower pharmaceutical prices could enhance the financial security of people with Medicare through reduced premiums and cost sharing. Saving costs on prescription medications would be particularly meaningful to the 25 million seniors and people with disabilities—half of the Medicare population—living on annual incomes of \$22,000 or less.

For these reasons, we strongly support the *Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act (S. 117)*.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Baker".

Joe Baker  
President