

PATIENTS RISING NOW

Bill Cosponsorship

Patients Rising Now selected eight bills introduced by the House of Representatives during the 117th Congress to score Members. The eight bills selected would help rare and chronic disease patients if signed into law. For each of the bills, the Member who introduced it and every Member who cosponsored it received three points to contribute to their overall score. If a member did not cosponsor the bill, they received zero points. Patients Rising Now supports all of the bills chosen for this process. The following list provides background information on the bills selected and how they would help patients:

[H.R.1730 Speeding Therapy Access Today Act](#)

- Establishes an institute for rare diseases and conditions within FDA to assist in development of treatments, coordinates engagement with relevant stakeholders, increases FDA expertise in review of new treatments, and more.

[H.R.1829 Pharmacy Benefit Manager Accountability Study Act](#)

- Directs the Government Accountability Office to create a report on pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Specifically: the role PBMs play in the pharmaceutical supply chain, the amount of a rebate kept by the PBM, how PBMs structure their formularies, and more.

[H.R.2163 Safe Step Act](#)

- Requires insurers to create a transparent process for patients to request an exception to a medication step therapy protocol.

[H.R.3173 Improving Senior's Timely Access Act](#)

- Increases transparency and response time under Medicare Advantage plans' use of prior authorization requirements.

[H.R.4472 BENEFIT Act](#)

- Requires the FDA to consider patient-focused data in the risk-benefit assessment framework used in the process of approving new drugs.

[H.R.5801 HELP Copays Act](#)

- Requires insurers to apply payments made on behalf of a patient towards a plan's cost-sharing requirement.

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[H.R.7634 Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act](#)

- Prohibits Federal health programs from using prices that are based on quality-adjusted life years in determining thresholds for coverage, reimbursements, or incentive programs.

[H.R.8581 Preserving Access to Home Health Act](#)

- Prevents CMS from implementing its planned decrease in payments (begins in calendar year 2023) for Medicare home health services until 2026.

Letter Sign-Ons

Members of Congress will often write letters to heads of Federal agencies, the Chair and/or Ranking Member of Committees, or the President expressing their support for or disapproval of a certain course of action or policy. The Member(s) who penned the letter will then circulate it to other Members to see if they'd be willing to sign on to strengthen the letter before it reaches the intended audience. Patients Rising Now identified 10 letters sent that favorably advocate on issues affecting patients. The Member(s) who wrote the letter and the additional Members who signed on received 2 points for each letter.

NOTE: the last two letters (Veterans Access to Pharmacies and Telehealth Access Extension) were bicameral letters that had House Members sign onto them. However, those letters originated in the Senate. For this reason, House Members who signed those letters will have bonus points applied to their scores. It will not count against Members who didn't sign them.

[Increase FY23 Funding Kidney Disease Research Letter](#)

- Letter sent to House Appropriations leadership requesting increased funding for the National Institute for Digestive, Diabetes, and Kidney Diseases and \$15 million for the CDC's Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative in FY23 appropriations.

[Reverse HHS 2021 NBPP Rule Letter](#)

- Letter sent to President Biden requesting a reversal of the 2021 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters that allowed insurers and PBMs to adopt copay

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accumulator adjustment programs that exclude cost-sharing assistance from counting towards a patient's out-of-pocket expenses.

[Prevent CMS Cuts to Specialists Letter](#)

- Letter sent to House and Senate leadership requesting that additional funding be provided to office-based specialists to offset the cuts from the 2022 Physician Fee Schedule.

[Reverse CMS CY22 PDM Request Letter](#)

- Letter sent to HHS leadership expressing strong opposition to CMS requiring applicants to amend their Part D Payment Modernization model for calendar year 2022.

[Support FY22 Funding for CHC Letter](#)

- Letter sent to House Appropriations leadership requesting that Community Health Centers receive strong funding in the FY22 budget.

[Colorectal Cancer Month Designation Letter](#)

- Letter sent to President Biden requesting that March be designated as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

[Protect Medical Innovation Letter](#)

- Letter sent to President Biden requesting that the approach to globally distributing COVID-19 vaccines be reevaluated in order to preserve biomedical innovation.

[Support Funding Duchene MD Research Letter](#)

- Letter sent to House Appropriations leadership requesting research funding for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in the FY23 appropriations bill.

[CMS Support Medicare Advantage Letter](#)

- Letter sent to Administrator Brooks-LaSure requesting that CMS ensures Medicare Advantage can continue to provide value to their plan holders as CMS considers updates for plan year 2023.

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Alzheimer's Drug Coverage Letter

- Letter sent to CMS expressing concerns that Medicare will not be covering monoclonal antibodies treatment for Alzheimer's as part of its draft National Coverage Determination.

SENATE Veterans Access to Community Pharmacies Letter (Bonus Points)

- Letter sent to Defense Health Agency (DHA) leadership requesting information regarding DHA's monitoring of recent issues TRICARE beneficiaries have experienced at retail and community pharmacies.

SENATE Telehealth Access Extension Letter (Bonus Points)

- Letter sent to House and Senate leadership requesting access to telehealth be made permanent and pandemic telehealth flexibilities be extended.

H.Res.1390 Expressing support for the protection of Medicare part D's six protected classes. (Bonus Points)

- Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress, CMS, and relevant stakeholders should work together to ensure long-term protection of Medicare Part D's six protected classes (categories of drugs and treatments that, if a patient couldn't access, the patient would face serious health risks).