



Patients Rising Now 117th Congress Scorecard Methodology

Patients Rising Now curated the recorded votes impacting the rare and chronic disease community during the 117th Congress in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Provided below is a brief description of each bill voted on, how it impacts patients, and Patients Rising Now's position.

Senate Votes

[Roll Call Vote 351 \(09/29/22\)](#)

- Making Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023 (H.R.6833)
- Continuing Resolution to fund the Federal Government through December 16. Included provisions to reauthorize the User Fee Program for five years.
- **PRN Position:** Support

[Roll Call Vote 325 \(08/07/22\)](#)

- The Inflation Reduction Act (H.R.5376)
- Allows Medicare to negotiate certain drug prices and caps OOP spending at \$2,000. Limited in scope, doesn't help non-Medicare patients, doesn't address PBMs, and stifles innovation.
- **PRN Position:** Oppose

[Roll Call Vote 54 \(02/14/22\)](#)

- Robert Califf nomination to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.
- **PRN Position:** [Support](#)

[Roll Call Vote 233 \(06/15/21\)](#)

- Lina Khan nomination to be a Federal Trade Commissioner.
- **PRN Position:** Support

[Roll Call Vote 201 \(05/25/21\)](#)

- Chiquita Brooks-LaSure nomination to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (PN124)
- **PRN Position:** Support

[Roll Call Vote 125 \(03/18/21\)](#)

- Xavier Becerra nomination to be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (PN78-2)
- **PRN Position:** [Support](#)



Senate Legislation Cosponsorship

Patients Rising Now selected five bills introduced by the Senate during the 117th Congress to score Senators. The five bills selected would help rare and chronic disease patients if signed into law. For each of the bills, the Senator who introduced it and every Senator who cosponsored it received 5.5 points to contribute to their overall score. If a Senator did not cosponsor the legislation, they received zero points. Patients Rising Now supports all the bills chosen for this process. The following list provides background information on the bills selected and how they would help patients:

[S.368 Telehealth Modernization Act](#)

- Extends pandemic telehealth flexibilities for Medicare and allows all types of physicians to render telehealth services.

[S.464 Safe Step Act](#)

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

[S.1548 ENACT Act](#)

- Requires the National Institute on Aging to provide guidelines to increase diversity in research trials for Alzheimer's disease.

[S.3018 Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act](#)

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

[S.4293 Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act](#)

- Prevents pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from engaging in spread pricing, clawback payments, and direct or indirect remuneration (DIR) fees and increases transparency by requiring yearly reports from PBMs.



Senate Letter Sign-Ons

Senators 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 Senator(s) who penned the letter will then circulate it to other Senators to see if they'd be willing to sign on to strengthen the letter before it reaches the intended audience. Patients Rising Now identified eight letters sent that favorably advocate on issues affecting patients. The Senator(s) who wrote the letter and the additional Senators who signed on received 3 points for each letter.

[Support Funding Duchene MD Research Letter](#)

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

[DIR Fee Reform Letter](#)

- Letter sent to CMS leadership requesting that direct or indirect remuneration fee reform be included in the 2023 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program to lower drug costs for Part D beneficiaries.

[Support FY23 Funding for NIH Letter](#)

- Letter sent to Senate Appropriations leadership requesting strong support for the National Institutes of Health in the FY23 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill.

[MA Prior Authorization Reform Letter](#)

- Letter sent to CMS leadership requesting that CMS take steps to streamline and strengthen the prior authorization process in Medicare Advantage plans.

[Surprise Billing Rule Implementation Letter](#)

- Letter sent to HHS, Department of Labor, and Department of the Treasury leadership requesting that the surprise billing rule be amended to be more in line with the 2020 law Congress passed.

[HHS Non-Discrimination Rule Praise Letter](#)

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- Letter sent to HHS leadership thanking HHS for its proposed rule on nondiscrimination in health care for 2023.

[Veterans Access to Community Pharmacies Letter](#)

- 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.

[Telehealth Access Extension Letter](#)

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

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