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September 12, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee  
2185 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 201515

RE: The Global Healthy Living Foundation's Support of H.R. 6733

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the Global Healthy Living Foundation (GHLF), I would like to express our support for H.R. 6733. GHLF is a 20-year-old 501(c)(3) organization representing chronically ill patients and their caregivers across the country. Our patients are suffering from conditions including arthritis, psoriasis, osteoporosis, chronic pain, cardiovascular disease, and migraine. Many of these patients have been living with these conditions for years and as a result incur significant costs due to the treatments needed to control their disease. As a result, we believe that patients should have every tool available to help them access their medications at the lowest cost.

Current federal legislation allows for a "gag order" clause to be placed in contracts between pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and pharmacies which prevent pharmacists from informing patients if their medication may be cheaper without using their insurance. GHLF is concerned that patients are suffering from significant financial burdens as a result of this practice while the PBMs profit. H.R. 6733 would prohibit group health plans, health insurance issuers, prescription drug plan sponsor and Medicare Advantage Organizations from limiting certain information on drug prices, ending this little known but deceptive practice often used by PBMs to profit from over-charging enrollees for their prescription medicines.

We feel that bill is an important step to helping to lower out-of-pocket patient expenses for medications. By banning PBMs from charging a patient more than the cash price for a medication and preventing them from prohibiting pharmacists from disclosing information about all of the patients' available payment options, the legislation ends these "gag orders" once and for all. This bill complements the work done by the Administration to address this issue via their acknowledgement of the problem in the American Patient's First blueprint and the subsequent letter from Administrator Verma to Part D plan sponsors.

We urge the full Energy and Commerce Committee to advance this bill which keeps patients at the center of health care decisions, allows pharmacists to practice to the full extent of their licensure, and significantly reduces healthcare spending. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this legislation and would be pleased to provide any further information that you may require.

Sincerely,



Corey Greenblatt  
Manager, Policy and Advocacy  
Global Healthy Living Foundation

CC: Energy and Commerce Committee

