September 20, 2017

Dear Representatives Jenkins, Thompson, Harper and Luján:

As Congress considers policies with the potential to lower health care costs while improving patient outcomes, the undersigned organizations write in support of your bill, H.R. 3447- the *Furthering Access to Coordinated Treatments for Seniors (FACTS) Act*, which aims to optimize appropriate utilization of medications and prevent avoidable health risks through increased coordination of care.

H.R. 3447 addresses this issue by requiring that Medicare Parts A and B claims data be made available to Part D plans on a regular basis as well as in an electronic format, making the data accessible to assist plan efforts in improving health outcomes for at-risk enrollees. By providing greater access to information related to a patient’s medical status- such as admission to or discharge from a hospital- this legislation would empower Part D plans to identify patients at risk of medication mismanagement and design innovative programs that address the medication problems among enrollees. Introduction and passage of this solution represents a bipartisan, commonsense step by Congress to effectively address rising health care costs while improving coordinated chronic disease management for patients.

Poor medication adherence, defined as patients failing to take their medications as prescribed by their health care provider, is a leading, preventable cause of mortality in America, contributing to more than 125,000 deaths and nearly $300 billion in spending annually. Moreover, as the rate of inappropriate use of medications rise, the use of increasingly expensive health care services, such as emergency room visits and hospital admissions, also rises. Improving the appropriate use of medications and medication adherence thus offers the prospect of better health outcomes and substantial savings.

For most patients, the current health care delivery system lends itself to fragmented, uncoordinated care. There is rarely clinical feedback among settings, and between a patient’s health care provider and his/her health plan. To more successfully manage patients’ medications and their adherence to a care plan, pharmacy and medical care should be better coordinated. We therefore support policies that help participants in
federal health programs, such as Medicare, more effectively share information between pharmacy and medical services. Your legislation achieves this goal.

Improving medication adherence across America is a laudable goal and we thank you for spearheading this legislation in Congress. Passing your bill swiftly will reduce health costs and save lives.

Sincerely,

American Heart Association
AstraZeneca
Cardinal Health
Council for Affordable Health Coverage
CoverMyMeds
Curadite
GlaxoSmithKline
Healthcare Compliance Packaging Council
Health IT Now
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Consumers League
National Council on Patient Information and Education
New Directions Technology
Omnicell
Prescriptions for a Healthy America
Teva
Updox