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May 21, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair, House Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House  
Washington, DC 20515

Cc: Health Subcommittee Chairwoman Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member Michael Burgess,  
and all members of the House Energy & Commerce Committee

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden,

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) appreciates the Committee's ongoing efforts to examine prescription drug pricing and consider solutions to lower costs for patients. Patients with cancer are twice as likely to file bankruptcy than those without the disease. ASCO shares your concern about the rising cost of prescription drugs and stands ready to work with you on real solutions that address the affordability of cancer drugs. We applaud the Committee's previous work to spur competition in the generic marketplace and prohibit actions which only have the goal of delaying generic entry in the name of profit.

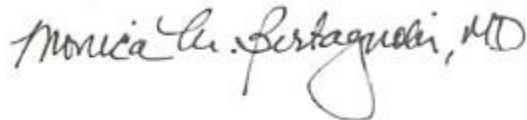
As the Committee continues its work with today's hearing, "Improving Drug Pricing Transparency and Lowering Prices for American Consumers," we offer our strong support for policies that would increase transparency throughout the supply chain such as HR 2296 *the FAIR Drug Pricing Act* and HR 2087 *Drug Pricing Transparency Act* moving forward through the legislative process. Transparency allows payers and patients to make an informed comparison of the relationship between development costs and price for drug products and exert public pressure on companies where the two appear to be widely divergent. As you consider HR 2064 *the Sunshine for Samples Act*, it is critical that any required reporting in this area be accurate and not impede access for patients, such as those with cancer beginning a round of oral chemotherapy in a physician office.

Of critical importance to our members and their patients is a need for greater transparency around the actions of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). ASCO offers for your review the [ASCO Position Statement: PBMs and Their Impact on Cancer Care](#). We hear serious concerns from our members about the negative effects of certain PBM practices on patients and the cancer care system. These include errors in filling prescriptions, treatment doses being altered in the absence of consultation with oncology care providers, duplicate patient copays because of incomplete dispensing, and drug waste resulting from incorrect doses or treatments sent directly to a patient's home. HR 2115 *Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act* and HR 2376 *Prescription Pricing for the People Act of 2019* will take important steps toward better understanding of practices by Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

We further support efforts to improve patient out of pocket costs such as HR 2757 *Creating Lower Cost Alternatives for Your Prescription Drugs Act*. In addition to cost, ASCO members also relay experiences of patient care delayed or denied because of utilization management techniques used by PBMs, especially prior authorization and step therapy. [ASCO's Policy Statement on the Impact of Utilization Management Policies for Cancer Drug Therapies](#) provides greater detail on ASCO's recommendations around prior authorization and step therapy.

If you have questions on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer or would like additional information about ASCO's views on drug pricing issues, please contact Amanda Schwartz at [Amanda.schwartz@asco.org](mailto:Amanda.schwartz@asco.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and 'B'.

Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO  
President, American Society of Clinical Oncology